


ch by Raising
omels


Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Recovering from a Multiple Heart Bypass Operation, Takes Tea with His Wife Naina (R) & Granddaughter Masha (L), Nov. 15



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IRAN NEWS

Rwandan Refugee Children, Who Lost Their Parents During the Exodus & Who Have Been Taken in by Humanitarian Organizations, Stand at a Transit Camp in the Border Town of Gisenyi, Nov. 17



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Nateq-Nouri Begins 3-Nation Tour Today

TEHRAN - A high-powered Iranian delegation headed by Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri will begin a three-nation tour today.

The nine-day tour will take Nateq-Nouri to Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and India.

On the first leg of his tour, Nateq-Nouri will fly today to Almaty where he will hold talks with senior government officials, including President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Central Asia is crucial for Iran's foreign policy, and Kazakhstan is one of the major countries among the former republics of the Soviet Union.

Nateq-Nouri will head a top-level politico-economic delegation.

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Christopher to Seek China's Help with N. Korea Nuclear Issue

BEIJING, CHINA (AFP) - U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived here yesterday with a request for China to pressure neighboring North Korea to respect the U.S.-brokered freeze on its suspected nuclear program.

In a briefing to journalists here, Christopher also said he would stress to his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen the necessity of Pyongyang agreeing to peace talks with Seoul, Washington and Beijing.

"I will be talking about the importance of encouraging the North Koreans to go forward with the four-party talks," Christopher said.

At the same time, he said he hoped the Chinese leadership would be able to push its erstwhile Stalinist ally into "looking forward toward a peace treaty" to replace the 1953 Armistice Agreement with the South that Pyongyang is

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U.S. Vetoes Boutros-Ghali's Bid for Second Term

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - The United States vetoed yesterday a second term for U.N. Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, the only one of 15 council member states which nixed his re-election, diplomats said.

The Egyptian diplomat, 74, was the first serving secretary-general to be targeted by a U.S. veto since the world body was created 51 years ago.

He has been secretary-general since January 1, 1992, and his five-year term ends December 31.

The U.S. veto of a second five-year term for him was expected. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright warned Sunday in a CNN television interview: "We respect Boutros-Ghali as an international leader but we believe that the U.N. needs new leadership. We're making that point clear and it will be clear again when the vote comes up."

The United States maintains that Boutros-Ghali has failed to reform the United Nations, a demand pressed by President Bill Clinton's political rivals in the U.S. Congress who view the world body as an ineffective alternative to American leadership.

U.S. officials have argued that Congress' loss of confidence in Boutros-Ghali contributed to Washington's failure to pay some \$1.4 billion owed to the United Nations, which would not likely be forthcoming if he stayed on as secretary-general.

While the U.S. veto does not technically force Boutros-Ghali to withdraw his candidacy, it unofficially signals to candidates in the wings that they may step forward.

Aspirants to the prestigious post had refrained from waging open campaigns until the United States, which provides 25 percent of the U.N. budget, took formal steps to oppose Boutros-Ghali.

Yazdi Says FMI Will Take Part in Presidential Polls

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - The Freedom Movement of Iran (FMI) will nominate a candidate for the presidential elections, said Ibrahim Yazdi.

In an interview with IRAN NEWS Yazdi said, "If we could not succeed in fielding our own candidate, we will support someone else."

"We will take part in the elections as a political party and invite the people to have full turnout," Yazdi said.

"The time is not ripe for us to nominate our candidate now," he said when asked to name the would-be candidate of the FMI.

Yazdi, FMI Secretary-General, said, "The task for the announcement of a candidate will be undertaken in due time."

Asked what the FMI would do if the Guardians Council does not confirm the qualifications of its candidate, he said, "There is the possibility that the Guardians Council might consider our candidate disqualified. If this happens, the FMI will not take part in the elections but would not 'ban' the polls as we oppose such a term and are not, moreover, in a position to issue verdicts for the people."

On the FMI views on priority tasks of the future president, Yazdi noted, "We believe the existing management system—which is centralized—should be re-

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International Community Should Pay Attention to Afghan Issue

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif at the United Nations Monday called on the international community to pay attention to the Afghan human crisis.

He was addressing the International Conference on Afghanistan. He noted that the settlement of the critical Afghan situation will also have an impact on regional stability and international peace and security.

He commented on the losses



date disqualified. If this happens, the FMI will not take part in the elections but would not 'ban' the polls as we oppose such a term and are not, moreover, in a position to issue verdicts for the people."

On the FMI views on priority tasks of the future president, Yazdi noted, "We believe the existing management system—which is centralized—should be re-

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GAZA, PALESTINE: Some 200 Palestinian women with their children demonstrate in Gaza City Nov. 18 demanding the release of their relatives held in Israeli prisons and improvements of prison conditions. "This demonstration is in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike Monday", Awatif al-Dorra, an official with the Palestinian Prisoners Club rights group, told AFP. (AFP Photo)

Israeli Minister Says Hebron Settlers Not Worth Bloodshed

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Eli Suissa, Israel's ultra-Orthodox interior minister, said yesterday that the militant Jewish settlement in Hebron was not worth "one drop of soldiers' blood" to defend once the city is turned over to Palestinian control.

Suissa said the 400 settlers, whose presence in Hebron is blocking agreement on the extension of self-rule to the West Bank city, must be provided with maximum security guarantees, but not at any price.

"The Jewish settlement in He-

bron is not worth one drop of a soldier's or settler's blood," Suissa said in an interview published yesterday in the Haaretz newspaper.

"I have serious doubts about the logic behind this settlement and about its utility when measured against the damage it causes," he said.

Israel's Hebron Demands Unacceptable

AL QANTARA, EGYPT -

Prominent MP Asks Bonn To Reconsider Charges

BY M. SERIOOIE
TEHRAN - A prominent Iranian lawmaker yesterday urged the government of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to "reconsider" its policy toward Iran, and not to

allow the "Zionists to generate their influence to mar Bonn-Tehran ties."



AHMADIYEH

allow the "Zionists to generate their influence to mar Bonn-Tehran ties."

Majlis Deputy Mustafa Ahmadieh, in an interview with

IRAN NEWS, confirmed that more than 200 MPs had written to Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri calling for an emergency session of the Majlis to make a decision on the insulting behavior of the German prosecutor.

"You know," Ahmadieh said, "for the last so many years, both Iran and Germany have been co-operating with each other in economic, trade and industrial sectors."

"We did not have any problem and our ties were growing," the Karaj deputy recalled. The MP, 45, is married with two sons. He was formerly mayor of Karaj.

"Now the Zionists want to mar the relations of the two countries, and Bonn should take an appropriate step to defuse the plot, which is against both the countries," Ahmadieh said.

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REZA LOCK CO. (ex-Union)

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SUMMARY



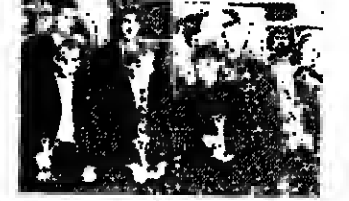
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Floods in Egypt

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Where is Agassi?

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EDITORIAL

Avoid the Worst Possible Human Tragedy

While in Afghanistan extremist forces of the Taliban were fighting with their adversaries, particularly Uzbek forces of General Abdul Rashid Dostam, representatives from the regional countries and some others were sitting in the United Nations to explore avenues leading to peace in that country.

Monday's one-day meeting was significant because, unlike other similar meetings elsewhere, all major players in Afghan affairs were present, along with U.N. special envoy on Afghanistan Norbert Holl.

Holl's presence at the U.N. meeting was very useful because he had recently engaged extensively in parleys with various Afghan groups. Holl's assessment of the parleys provided the latest and most authentic picture of Afghanistan to the participants at the conference.

The representatives met behind closed doors, and not much information is available about their negotiations and resolutions. What we know at this stage is that all agreed fighting in Afghanistan should stop immediately. Kabul should be demilitarized and political dialogue should be held for a broad-based transitional government.

What Iran and some others are concerned about is violation of human rights, particularly women's rights. Iran's representative, Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, expressed Tehran's utmost concern and reminded the delegates of other countries that "fundamental Islamic principles regarding the role and value of women are being trampled upon in the brutest form, regrettably in the name of Islam."

Iran is also concerned about whether or not the new government in Islamabad has changed the pro-Taliban policy adopted by the Benazir government. Tehran expects the new government of Pakistan to announce its policy toward Afghanistan in clear terms.

Iran also has been trying to have all roads for the supply of weapons blocked to prevent any weapon from either side entering Afghanistan at any cost.

The Afghan nation is facing the year's most crucial phase of weather, as winter is already there and snow is to come. Those who really want to avoid one of the greatest human catastrophes should act to enforce peace in Afghanistan without wasting a single moment.

Passing resolutions is not enough, as the safety and security of millions are at stake. We should all take comprehensive steps to avoid the worst calamity. How? The U.N. should furnish the answer.

ADVERTISE IN IRAN NEWS

Tatar President Interested in Tehran Relations



President Rafsanjani (R) with Shamiyev

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Visiting Tatar President Mitomer Shamiyev said yesterday his government and people want to develop relations with Tehran because of a religious and cultural closeness between the two nations.

Meeting with President Akbar

Hashemi Rafsanjani and Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri separately. Shamiyev said that in the wake of reconstruction in the autonomous Republic of Tatarstan, its Muslim people were interested in reviving their Islamic values.

Situated alongside the Volga



Nateq-Nouri (R) with Shamiyev

PHOTO BY HATAMI

River, Tatarstan could trade through its link with Iran, the Caspian Sea, Shamiyev said.

President Rafsanjani said the Tatar president's visit to Tehran had provided an opportunity to explore possibilities for economic, cultural and industrial co-operation.

He voiced Iran's readiness to expand relations with Kazan in all areas of mutual interest.

Tatarstan, with an area of 28,000 square kilometers and a population of 3.8 million, is located in the Eastern European part of the Russian Federation.

Rowhani, Finnish President Hail Growing Tehran-Helsinki Ties

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Majlis Vice Speaker Hojjatoleslam Hassan Rowhani who is in Finland at the head of a parliamentary delegation, conferred with the Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari in Helsinki Monday evening.

Rowhani referred to the two countries' expanding relations and parliamentary cooperation, and called for promotion of Iran-Finland economic and political relations.

He said that exchange of constructive views between the parliamentary officials of the two countries is in the interest of regional peace and security.

He said that Tehran-Helsinki close relations would be a major factor in paving the way for political and cultural talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Union.

Rowhani added that the only way to set up constructive cultural relations is to mutually respect both countries' culture and to avoid sacrifice of religious beliefs.

Briefing the Finnish president on Iran's regional and international views as well as on efforts to promote regional peace and security, he expressed concern over the large amount of money spent by the Persian Gulf states on arms purchase.

According to an IRNA report, Rowhani pointed out that some regional states annually spend on arms purchase the equivalent of \$1,200 per capita, while the annual defense budget of the Islamic Republic of Iran stands at \$43 per capita.

The Finnish president in response expressed satisfaction over the two countries' growing ties and hailed the visit of the Iranian delegation as "useful" and "effective."

He also announced pleasure over the ongoing talks between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Union (EU), terming it as a "positive step" for understanding each other's viewpoints.

UNHCR Refrains from Helping Iran Set up Roofed Camps

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has refrained from cooperating with Iran on providing roofed lodgings for Iraqi refugees despite the approach of winter.

Director General for the For-

eign Nationals and Expatriates of the Interior Ministry Ahmad Husseini added that Iran's Interior Ministry has forwarded a proposal to UNHCR on transferring Iraqi refugees to buildings suitable for cold weather, yet the UNHCR has not taken any measures to finance these projects.

Following the recent fighting between rival Kurdish groups in Northern Iraq, 75,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees entered Iran through the northern borders. Of the 75,000 refugees, 48,000 people have returned to five camps in their home country.

Husseini said that currently 27,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees are being housed in three camps in Iran, adding because of the cold weather, Iran is unable to transfer

them.

The UNHCR has so far paid \$3.1 million to Iran which is highly insufficient compared to the needed \$15 million to cover the current expenses of the refugees.

Husseini stressed that Iraqi refugees return to their home country voluntarily, adding that those willing to return to Iraq will be supplied with necessities such as food.

He rejected allegations made by Physicians Without Border that every night one child under five years of age dies in the camps.

Husseini added that the death toll has now been minimized among refugees because of child vaccination to the camps. IRNA reported.

Hizbollah Calls for Germany to Review Its Iran Policy

BEIRUT (AFP) - The Iranian-backed Lebanese group, Hizbollah, yesterday urged Germany to reconsider its "irresponsible" policy toward Iran if it wanted to succeed in its Middle East missions.

In a statement issued in Beirut, the Shia Muslim group said it "forcefully denounces the German authorities' responsible policy which has led it to strike a blow against the goals of the Islamic Revolution in Iran - cleric Ali Khamenei, the sacred symbol of the Islamic nation."

"If the German government sticks with this policy, it will rule out a role for itself in the Muslim world and will not have a hand in any of the political and international matters in suspense in the Middle East or realize any tangible success," Hizbollah warned.

The Hizbollah statement came after German prosecutors outraged the Iranian government by accusing senior Iranian officials of approving the assassination of four Iranian Kurds opposed to the Islamic regime.

The four Kurds were gunned down in a Berlin restaurant in 1992.

In July, Bonn mediated an exchange of prisoners and of remains between Israel and Hizbollah.

German secret services coordinator Bernd Schubertbauer, who organized the operation, has returned to the region several times to try to resolve the matter of Israeli soldiers captured or missing in Lebanon since the Israeli invasion of that country in 1982.



Uruguay Official Surprised at Iranian Activity

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - "I was surprised at so much dynamism and zest for development in your country, and believe it is necessary for world politicians to visit your country and closely observe the realities here," said incoming Uruguayan Deputy Minister of Agriculture Roberto Rodriguez.

Rodriguez was speaking to Mohammad Javad Larijani, an MP and vice chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission.

He said Iran had an important status in the region and was a center of attraction in the world. "Besides broadening economic

relations, Uruguay is resolved to expand its ties with Iran in cultural and political fields," said Rodriguez, inviting both Larijani and Rowhani, chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Parliament, to visit Montevideo.

Larijani said that since the emergence of the Islamic Revolution, Iran had concentrated on Latin American states and had improved its relations with them.

"We believe the good and honest people of Latin America have for many years been a victim of Washington's economic tyranny, and we are prepared to expand our cooperation with them," Larijani added.

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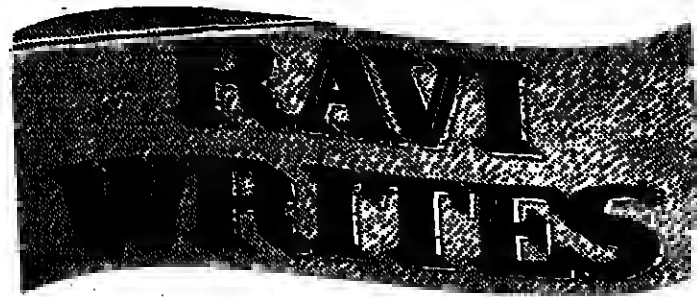
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Rowhani,
Finnish
President Hail
Growing
Iranian-Helsinki
Ties



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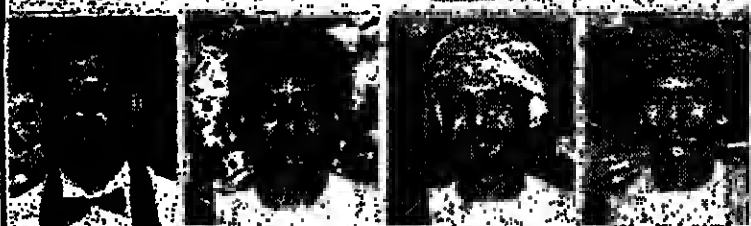
Al-Barami Hosts Dinner to Mark Oman's National Day

"I promise you to proceed forthwith in the process of creating a modern government. My first act will be the immediate abolition of all unnecessary restrictions on your lives and activities," Sultan Qaboos bin Said pledged to his estimated 1.5 million Omani nation on July 23, 1970.

About 26 years have lapsed from that day, and the Sultan has, to a great extent, fulfilled his promises. The democratic process was one of the significant aspects of reforms the Sultan has carried out in his country.



(From left) Velayati, Al-Barami, Mirsalim



(From left) Abdullah al-Balushi, Al-Badai, Mohammed al-Balushi, Al-Ghilani

For the first time, Majlis al-Shura, a state advisory council is presently composed of elected members with no government appointed representative. The women received fair treatment and are represented in their country's Parliament.

Other aspects, including industrial development, have also enjoyed the due attention of the Sultan who was born on November 18, 1940, a day which is observed as the National Day by all the people of Oman wherever they are.

In Tehran, Oman's Ambassador Musallam bin Bakheet bin Zeidan al-Barami hosted his country's National Day ceremonies which were attended by several senior officials of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's government, including Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mustafa Mir Salim.

Dr. Velayati, while talking to Ambassador Al-Barami, presented his best wishes to him.

Deputy Foreign Minister and Director of the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) Abbas Maleki and Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab-African Affairs Hussein Sheikholeslam were also there at the ceremonies.

Minister of Mines and Metals Hussein Mahlouji, who is abroad on an official tour, sent a huge bouquet to Al-Barami through his deputy A. Ansari.

There was an army of waiters at the residence of Ambassador Al-Barami to serve his guests a variety of tidbits, including meat balls, fried shrimps, and chickens.

The reception culminated in a rich dinner. Chicken curry, spinach, fried lamb, Omani style cooked fish, along with a variety of sweets and fresh fruits were served to the guests.

Foreign diplomats headed by their Dean, Syrian Ambassador Ahmad al-Hassan, were present along with top brass of almost all embassies in Tehran.

Oman Embassy's Commander Abdullah al-Blushi, Saif al-Badai, Mohammed al-Balushi and Said al-Ghilani were there to receive the guests along with Ambassador Al-Barami.

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Habibi Underlines Significance of World Food Summit

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - The World Food Summit (WFS), held in Rome, Italy, was a significant event in the world because of the issues raised there and the focus of world leadership on hunger. First Vice President Hassan Habibi told reporters upon arrival at Mehrabad Airport early yesterday morning.

The conference, set off by Pope John Paul II on Wednesday and attended by over one hundred heads of state in Rome wound up on Sunday.

However, Habibi regretted, some countries spent much of their time to advise and suggest general guidelines without paying any attention to the main agenda which called for provision of food security.

He said many European and American leaders who have the best resources for supply of food, focus on issues such as human rights and peace saying these were prerequisites for supply of food-stuff. "but the fact is that they evaded and escaped from the main theme of the conference which emphasized on food security."

KDP to Open "Fresh Chapter" in Relations with Islamic Iran

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - The special delegation of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) met yesterday with Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab-African Affairs Hussein Sheikholeslam. They called for improvement and promotion of relations with Iran.

The delegation was led by Fadhel Mirani, a member of the KDP's political department. He announced the party's will to open a "fresh chapter" in its relations with Islamic Iran.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party regards itself being among



"Another group of leaders lamented the hardship and distress faced by the globe but their addresses were empty slogans which led to nowhere," said the vice president adding that a few states including the Islamic Republic of Iran proposed practical ways and means for elimination of hunger

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U.S., Allied Navies to Monitor Iranian War Games in Persian Gulf

DUBAI (AFP) - U.S. and allied warships will monitor large-scale Iranian naval maneuvers in the Persian Gulf this week as Tehran boosts its military capabilities in the world's oil shipping lanes, U.S. and British officials said.

Such exercises offer "an opportunity to learn how well their forces operate together" and some of the tactics they are using, Commander T. McCreary, spokesman for the U.S. Fifth Fleet, told AFP. "We watch them closely."

Around 100 Iranian ships and 40 planes and helicopters will be deployed in the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman starting Thursday in 10 days of war games code-named "Victory," Iranian officials said.

In addition to the 20 U.S. navy ships which are in the region throughout the year, four British and four French warships have been in the Persian Gulf over the last few weeks to conduct exer-

cises with U.S. forces and Persian Gulf Arab allies.

German warships are also in the region as naval activity increases with cooler temperatures, military officials said.

It was the first time a British aircraft carrier, the HMS Invincible, had been in the Persian Gulf since 1992, although British warships are usually present to protect merchant ships, conduct exercises and enforce U.N. sanctions on Iraq.

The Invincible, which carries 16 aircraft, and its escort ships would be monitoring the Iranian exercises, but this was not the reason for being in the region, said a British defense official who asked not to be named.

"I'm sure they and others will take an interest in observing the Iranian naval exercises," the official said. "I think we are all quite aware of the capability of Iran, which is of concern to our (Persian

Gulf) colleagues."

Iran has denounced the increased allied military presence in the Persian Gulf since a U.S.-led military coalition drove Iraqi occupation troops from Kuwait in 1991, but said its exercises were not aimed at increasing tension.

Iran's Navy Commander Admiral Ali Shamkhani, who was quoted by the Iranian press, warned of the "occupying and illegitimate presence" of Western forces in the Persian Gulf, saying they were a "main cause of tension" in the region.

He said the exercises "do not seek to create tension in the region and Iran is not out looking for a fight, but we are firm and strong in defending our critical interests."

The aim is to demonstrate Iran's "military and defense capabilities as a deterrent force and raise cooperation" among various naval

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Third Day of Protest Isolates German Embassy

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - Security forces here yesterday encircled the German Embassy to hold off protesters on a third day of demonstrations against German prosecutors' allegations of Iran's involvement in the 1992 assassination of Kurdish dissidents in Berlin.

Several hundred members of the Ansar-e Hizbollah (Supporters of the Party of God) gathered outside the embassy, chanting that it was a "second den of spies" and threatening to storm the mission if Germany did not retract its terrorism charges against Iranian leaders.

With a fence, two huge cranes and around a dozen police cars, the crowd was kept at bay. Hundreds of riot police bused into downtown Tehran and waited nearby, according to reports. The embassy was closed, but due to reopen today.

The crowd later marched toward the Foreign Ministry, calling for "tough action" against Bonn. Rallies have also been held in other cities and more are expected.



Tatar President Calls for Iran-Tatarstan Oil Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Tatar President Mintimer Shaimiyev in a meeting here on Monday with Iranian minister of oil, Gholamreza Azadeh, called for export of oil-related equipment from his country to the Islamic Republic.

The Tatar president also expressed willingness to export a portion of the autonomous republic's oil via Iran.

The Iranian oil minister said that officials of the Islamic Republic are considering to purchase certain oil-related equipment from Tatarstan.

The two sides have assigned delegations to study ways of possible cooperation between Iran and Tatarstan in the said areas.

The Tatar president is here on a 3-day state visit.

NEMATZADEH:

Iran's Cement Output to Reach 20m Tons by Year End

TEHRAN (IRNA) - About \$1 billion was invested in the course of the 1st Five-Year Development Plan (1989-1994) for establishment of 20 cement plants with a total capacity of 37,800 tons of clinker per day.

Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh said at the 2nd International Conference on Cement here on Monday that major portion of the cement projects are being implemented in the deprived regions, financed by the private sector and banks.

Nematzadeh said that eight cement factories have become operational over the past one and a half years and 12 others are to start operation in the next two years gradually.

He said that last year (March 1995-March 1996), a total of 17.5 million tons of cement were produced in Iran and 904,000 tons of clinker exported to neighboring countries.

He predicted that Iran's cement output would top 20 million tons by the year end (March 1997) and 30 million tons by the end of the 2nd Five-Year Plan (1995-1999).

There are 700 experts from Iran, along with a number of others from Germany, Switzerland, France, India, Pakistan, Japan, Egypt, Greece and Russia attending the three-day conference.

6th National Conference on Fisheries Opens

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Sixth National Conference on Fisheries was inaugurated here on Monday with the aim of marketing and increasing domestic consumption of seafood.

Construction Jihad Minister Gholamreza Forouzan in a message, read at the conference, said that 10 fishing ports had been established during the First Five-Year Development Plan (1989-1994) and 23 others are also to become operational by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan (1995-1999).

Iran's fish catch is expected to reach 110,000 tons by the end of the Second Plan.



TEHRAN - Velayati (L) shakes hands with Rodriguez Pioli. (Photo by Moradi)

Uruguay for Expansion of Cooperation with Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Visiting Uruguayan Deputy Minister of Agriculture Robert Rodriguez Pioli met with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati here yesterday where he called for expansion of relations between Iran and Uruguay.

Pioli said that his country attaches special importance to relations with Iran, noting that the Islamic Republic has a distinguished and decisive role in the region.

The official also emphasized

broadening of cultural relations between Iran and Uruguay and expressed hope that the upcoming visit to his country by a group of Iranian artists would be a turning point in relations between the two countries.

Velayati described promotion of political, economic and cultural relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uruguay as favorable and voiced satisfaction with the trend of cooperation in

trade and economy between the two states. He said exchanging cultural delegations plays a major role in expansion of cultural relations between Iran and Uruguay.

The selfish policies of the U.S. was another topic discussed during the meeting.

Pioli said that the Latin American countries reject the U.S. extra-territorial policies against other countries as unacceptable.

7,000 km of Railroad in Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Head of the International Railway Union, Philip Rumike, here yesterday exchanged views with Iranian minister of road and transportation, Akbar Torkan, on the Islamic Republic of Iran's railways.

Describing the Iranian railway management as "advanced", Rumike expressed hope that international forums such as the International Railway Union would facilitate the development of railroad transportation all over the world.

Torkan said in response that world governments should pay more attention to the development of their railway networks since railway is the only means of transportation independent of oil energy.

He pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran at present has 7,000 km of railroad of which 2,500 km are nearing completion. Construction of another 2,000 km of railway is under study, he added.

Promotion of Irano-Spanish Cooperation Called for

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Visiting president of Spanish autonomous region of Galicia, Manuel Fraga Iribarne, here on Monday called for promotion of cooperation between Iran and Spain in tourism, sea transportation and building rawlers.

In a meeting with the head of Mostafazan and Janhazan Foundation (MJF), Mohsen Rafiqdoust,

Fraga said the Islamic Republic of Iran has many special tourist attractions and can host millions of tourists from around the world.

He said Iran is a very attractive country for foreign tourists and historical researchers due to its ancient culture and civilization.

Iribarne said the autonomous region of Galicia has a large shipping fleet.

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4th Meeting of ECO Executive Committee to Be Held in Mashhad

MASHHAD, KHORASSAN PROVINCE (IRNA) - The Fourth General Assembly of the Executive Committee of the ECO Chamber will be held in Mashhad on November 24-25.

Member of the presiding board of the Chamber of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Gholam Hussein Shafei added here yesterday that the meeting will discuss providing facilities for transit of goods among mem-

ber countries, joint investments and revising the customs duties. Adopting policies to facilitate granting of visas to businessmen will be among other issues of the discussion, he said.

The third meet was held in Lahore, Pakistan, last year.

ECO groups Iran, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan Republic and Afghanistan.

Commercial Insurance Up This Year

BY NADER ADABI

TEHRAN - Insurance industry executive Abdolnaser Henmati said yesterday that by the end of 1377 (March 1999), the proportion of premium versus GNP will hit 0.53 percent, against 0.48 percent last year.

Henmati, president of Bimeh Markazi Iran (BMI), told IRAN NEWS that to achieve that figure, BMI will collect 2,423 billion rials by 1377.

Meanwhile, with the present pace of population growth in Iran, the per capita premium for commercial insurance will settle at 37 thousand rials in 1377.

"The number of BMI branches will increase to 454 by that year, and private insurance companies will grow to 2,733, as envisaged in our 5-Year Plan," Henmati stated.

During the first six months of this Iranian year, BMI commercial insurance grew 48 percent with an increase of 80 percent in payment of damages compared to the same period last year.

The insurance executive said that during this period, 522 billion rials in premiums were earned, and 295 billion rials in damages were paid.

"The loss coefficient is beyond 75 percent," said Henmati.

One of the main objectives of BMI is privatization of insurance, he said, but since the industry's present regulations conflict with Principle 44 of the Constitution, "we have not succeeded in accomplishing that end, which we firmly believe will give a boost to the insurance industry."

Concerning new insurance branches, Henmati said life, savings and retirement insurance will all go on stream from December 3, and by March the family incident insurance will commence.

Iran, Malaysia to Expand Bilateral Cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA (IRNA) - Iranian minister of cooperatives, Gholamreza Shafei, conferred with Malaysian minister of primary industries, Mostafa Mohammad, on Monday.

At the meeting the two sides discussed ways of expanding bilateral cooperation and the role their ministries could play in this regard.

The Iranian official invited the Malaysian minister to pay an official visit to Iran.



HEMMATI

which covers hospitalization fees for families.

"Under a family insurance plan, the insured can receive a maximum of 4 million rials damage," Henmati explained.

The president of BMI said Iran's policy aimed to strengthen ECO reinsurance, "and we have proposed an insurance plan to that organization to pay scholarship to Pakistani and Turkish students to attend the ECO Insurance College in Tehran."

Concerning the Asian and African Insurance Federation (AAIF), he said Iran is the deputy executive director of that organization and an active member.

"In the recent AAIF conference in India, we proposed a petroleum insurance to cover oil installations and industries," said Henmati, adding that an important objective of BMI is to establish insurance for export of non-oil products, technical and engineering services, which is in line with the government's policy to encourage exporters against such risks.

New Aluminium Profile Production Line Set up

ARAK (IRNA) - A new aluminium profile production line started operation at the Aluminol Plant here on Monday, said the managing director of the plant, Mahmoud Farahati.

He added that by setting up the production line the plant began producing light profiles with a 1.1 mm diameter for the first time in Iran.

Enjoying top quality, the new products can meet domestic requirements and also be exported, he said.

The official added that the production line will save the country \$13 million annually.

Such profiles are used for making window panes, automobile spare parts and thermal power plants.

Foreign Exchange Rates

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

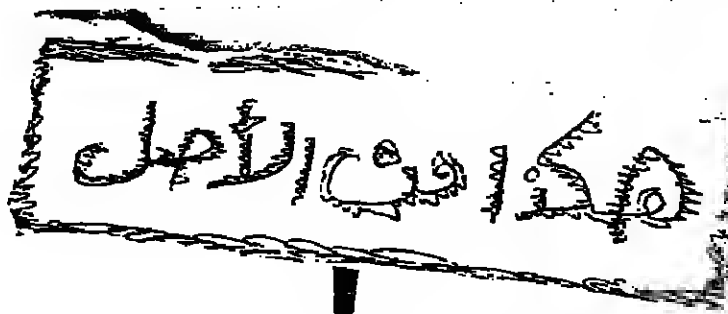
TEHRAN - The following are the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Tuesday.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates		Export Rates	
		SELLING	BUYING	SELLING	BUYING
Australia	dollar	1,390	1,382	2,384	2,372
Austria	schilling	166	165	284	283
Belgium	(100)francs	5,665	5,633	9,718	9,670
Canada	dollar	1,310	1,302	2,247	2,236
Denmark	krone	304	302	522	519
France	franc	345	343	592	589
Germany	mark	1,166	1,160	2,001	1,991
Italy	(100)liras	116	115	199	198
Japan	(100)yen	1,581	1,572	2,712	2,699
Netherlands	guilder	1,041	1,035	1,785	1,776
Sweden	krone	266	264	456	454
Switzerland	franc	1,377	1,370	2,363	2,351
U.K.	pound	2,929	2,912	5,024	4,999
U.S.	dollar	1,755	1,750	3,015	3,000
U.A.E.	dirham	479	476	820	818

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WORLD

NEWS

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Ethics & Faith Create Sense of Responsibility Among Journalists

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Journalists should abide by their commitments and responsibilities. Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mustafa Mirsalim said here yesterday.

Speaking ahead of the conference on ethics of Muslim journalists which will convene in Tehran December 9-12, 1996, he said, "Journalists should always be concerned about the way they use the power afforded to them by working in the media."

He added that a journalist abiding by ethical principles and presenting the truth does not raise hue and cry to unduly win the attention of the people and create false attractions.

On the Western media, he said, "As the discussion on ethics has not culminated among the non-Muslim journalists, one should not expect to see journalists and readers reaching edification there."

Mirsalim urged the journalists to correctly engage in criticism and avoid grudges, insults, arrogance, untruthfulness, and other maladies that prominently appear when ethics is not the order of the day.



attempting to dismantle.

Stressing that it was crucial to keep the U.S.-North Korea Accord on Pyongyang's nuclear program "on track," Christopher said Washington believed China could "use its influence with North Korea to that end."

Pyongyang threatened last week to scrap the accord amid a bitter row with Washington and Seoul over the incursion by a North Korean submarine into South Korean territorial waters.

Yesterday it also announced the closure of its border liaison office with South Korea, cutting off a hotline which has reduced the possibility of an accidental breakout of war for four years.

Christopher, who is in China for a three-day visit, is scheduled to meet today with Qian, Premier Li Peng and President Jiang Zemin.

According to U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns, the questions of non-proliferation, human rights, trade, Taiwan and Hong Kong will figure in all the discussions.

The United States has long called on China to cease its nuclear cooperation with Iran and has repeatedly accused Beijing of selling missile technology to Pakistan -- a charge China hotly denies.

"I simply think that Iran is not to be trusted with this highly sensitive technology and I will be discussing it in these terms," Christopher said.

Christopher reiterated that he intended to raise the question of human rights -- long a thorn in the side of bilateral ties -- but he also stressed the need for "a steady and comprehensive approach to the relationship where it is not rooted in a single issue."

Nevertheless, Christopher will be under pressure to push Beijing on human rights in the wake of the 11-year sentence handed down late last month to former student prodemocracy leader Wang Dan.

"There is little doubt in my mind that Wang Dan's case will be raised," said Burns.

Christopher failed to win any

concessions from China on the human rights issue during his last visit in 1994, and Burns was quick to point out that Washington did not want to let lack of progress on one issue get in the way of the other major issues at stake.

"The relationship between the United States and China is too important to be held back because of problems on certain issues."

Meanwhile, the Chinese Foreign Ministry hailed Christopher's arrival with a call for Washington to end the yearly wrangle over most favored nation (MFN) trading status and set relations with China straight for the 21st century.

"MFN is an arrangement of mutual benefit to the both two sides, but it has to be renewed each year. This is not appropriate and the issue should be resolved once and for all," said ministry spokesman Cui Tiangkai.



Settlers Grab Disputed Land Near Bethlehem

WADI RAHAL, WEST BANK - Israeli soldiers scuffled yesterday with Palestinian farmers and officials who tried to prevent a group of Jewish settlers from seizing disputed land to expand their settlement, witnesses said.

The troops intervened after members of the Al-Zir family which claims to own the land outside this village and Palestinian Legislative Council member Bisbara Daoud from nearby Bethlehem stood in front of the settlers' bulldozer.

"We came out this morning at 6:00 a.m. to plant wheat as we do each year when the settlers came with the bulldozer," said Daoud al-Zir, 60.



U.N. Hits Out at Israel Supreme Court for Sanctioning Torture

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND - The United Nations condemned yesterday a decision by Israel's Supreme Court to authorize the use of physical violence against a Palestinian prisoner, saying that no crime could justify torture.

The U.N. Committee Against Torture said in a statement here that recourse to violence to question suspects was unacceptable, and criticized the Supreme Court's decision to give the Shio Beth intelligence service the green light to use "physical pressure" to interrogate a Palestinian prisoner.



Israelis Arrest 12 Suspects in Hebron

HEBRON, WEST BANK - The Israeli army has arrested 12 suspected Palestinian militants in a crackdown in Hebron ahead of the expected handover of most of the explosive city to Palestinian self-rule. Palestinian sources said yesterday.



NATEQ-NOURI From Page 1

tion including Minister of Transportation Ali Akbar Torbani, Minister of Commerce Yahya Alinejad, Minister of Industries Gholam Reza Nematzadeh, and Minister of Mines and Metals Hussein Mahlouji.

The prominent Majlis deputies including Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, Seyed Reza Taqavi, and Ms. Marziyeh Seddighi are also

included in the delegation of the Speaker, along with a team of journalists from the print and broadcast media.

Nateq-Nouri's visit is considered to be significant, as he is in the race for the next presidential elections.

Nateq-Nouri has been nominated the presidential candidate by the most powerful political faction, Jame-e Rouhaniat-e Mobaraz (JRM) last month.

Besides the JRM, Nateq-Nouri has won the support of one of the most powerful politico-religious institutes, the Association of Qom Seminary Teachers (AQST).

Iran and Kazakhstan already have "satisfactory" ties in various areas of bilateral cooperation. Both countries are littoral states of the Caspian Sea whose deputy ministers met here to determine the legal status of the world's largest lake.

Nateq-Nouri will go to Almaty today and will stay there for two days before he flies to Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan, another friendly neighboring country of Iran.

Like Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan also has commendable neighboring relations with Iran and enjoys identical views on many regional and international issues.

Observers believe Nateq-Nouri's visit to Ashkhabad will pave the way for closer and diversified ties between Iran and Turkmenistan.

He will stay there for three days before flying to New Delhi on November 25.

In India, he will be received by Lok Sabha or the Lower House of Parliament Speaker P.A. Sangma. Both the host and guest know each other.

Sangma visited Iran when he was labor minister in the Cabinet of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in April 1993. During his April 21-22 visit to Iran he met with Nateq-Nouri.

This will be the first time that Nateq-Nouri will meet with Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda. During his four-day visit, Nateq-Nouri will also go to Bombay, India's commercial capital and Hyderabad, a historical place and capital of Andhra Pradesh.

Nateq-Nouri has previously traveled to several countries including Kuwait, Sudan, Greece, Ireland, and Ukraine.



and girls from the most elemental human rights in Kabul and other similarly administered areas."

He underlined that fundamental Islamic principles regarding the role and value of women are being trampled upon in the most brutal form, regrettably in the name of Islam.

In addition, he said, the neighboring countries continue to be preoccupied with instability and insecurity along their borders with Afghanistan regarding the illegal movement of criminals and illicit arms and narcotics trafficking.

As to finding a solution to the Afghan crisis, he stated that the demilitarization of Kabul can be considered an important first step which should be planned and negotiated with an innovative interim administrative mechanism for the city.

He outlined the Islamic Republic's efforts during the most difficult years. Iran has also been host to millions of Afghan refugees. Zarif said.

"Our approach is based on the principle that there exists no military solution to the conflict, and that the only way out of the persist-

ent cycle of violence and fratricide consists of cessation of hostilities and commencement of negotiations among all Afghan parties as well as all segments of Afghan society aimed at a broad-based government of national unity," Zarif added.

"At the same time, we believe that there is much more that can be done at the global level, particularly within this setting and in the framework of the U.N. Special Mission to Afghanistan which has received its mandate from the General Assembly," he told the gathering.

He called for holding meetings organized and led by the secretary-general at various levels, saying that these consultations will enable countries with interest and influence in Afghanistan to exchange views and find common grounds for joint action to end this prevailing nightmare.

The Islamic Republic believes that the regular coordinating meetings of the secretary-general should establish certain principles to govern their collective as well as individual behavior toward the human tragedy in Afghanistan, he stressed.

"We should all encourage and support active engagement of the U.N. Special Mission to Afghanistan to find a political solution through maintaining and establishing contact with all groups and tendencies inside Afghanistan and with neighboring countries," the Iranian envoy noted, IRNA reported.



"Iran's positive stances in Palestine, South Lebanon and other countries such as Turkey, Iraq -- particularly in Northern Iraq -- triggered anti-Iranian feelings among the Zionists and they have reacted against us."

The Zionists were worried that Germany was the only country in Europe with whom Iranian relations in economic, industrial and commercial areas were rapidly increasing.

According to available statistics, Iran and Germany exchanged goods worth \$1.4 billion last year.

Germany officially says its Judiciary is independent and there was nothing the government could do in this direction. What do you think about it?

"I don't agree with them (German officials) ... how come the Judiciary meddled in the foreign affairs of Germany ... and accused the top authorities of a foreign country ..." Ahmadiyeh responded to the question.

"Such meddling in the country's foreign affairs is against diplomatic norms," he said.

The MP insisted that Iran had to revise its policy as the Islamic Republic had gone so far in increasing its relations with Germany in economic, political and cultural areas of cooperation.

"Anyway, the ball is in Germany's court," he said.

A German prosecutor on Friday accused Iran's top officials of ordering the 1992 killing of three Kurds and their translator at a Berlin restaurant.

Tehran has repeatedly denied any role in the killings and officially protested to Bonn over the charges.

German prosecutors have demanded life sentences against an Iranian and a Lebanese who were tried for the killings.

Turning to Iran's upcoming presidential elections, Ahmadiyeh said that, "Besides a few independent candidates, three major

factions will field their candidates."

The three factions, he said, included Jame-e Rouhaniat-e Mobaraz (JRM), the G-6 and the Society for Defense of the Values of the Islamic Revolution (SDVIR).

"The JRM has the bright chances to win the presidency," Ahmadiyeh said.

"The chances are better, especially now the Association of Qom Seminary Teachers (AQST) have thrown their weight behind the JRM candidate," he said.

Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri is candidate for the JRM, and the AQST, in an unprecedented move, announced its support for him.

The G-6 is still searching for a candidate, while SDVIR's has put forward Mohammed Mohammadi Reyshahi.



formed, as it is impossible in the modern age."

"The FMI holds that based on Article 7 of the Constitution, the specified councils should be set up so that the people would be able to run their own daily affairs," he noted.

"Whenever such councils are formed, the FMI will present the views it has developed following extensive research and investigation," Yazdi, a foreign minister in the transitional government of late Mehdi Bazargan said.

Yazdi remained foreign minister for nine months.

Another priority, he said, pertains to calculated plans to eliminate class and salary differences. "The FMI has come up with solutions to this end as well," Yazdi said.



and poverty in the world that complied with the conference's agenda.

Referring to the huge bulk of foodstuff wasted by wealthy nations, Habibi said: "One of our proposals to the WFS was to avoid wasting foodstuff and distribute their surplus among needy nations."

He said the WFS was a positive undertaking and expressed hope that Iran and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) would broaden their cooperation toward that vital issue.

"We severely condemned and rejected the use of foodstuff as a political lever in the world," the vice president pointed out.

Pointing to his meetings with heads of state at the sidelines of the conference, he said: "We discussed bilateral relations and regional crises spots such as Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Northern Iraq and the presence of foreigners in the Persian Gulf."

He said Iran and many other states agreed that President Burhanuddin Rabbani was the legitimate government in Afghanistan and that armed conflicts would not solve that country's problems.

"In my meeting with the Irish prime minister who is the rotating chairman of the European Union (EU), I discussed Iran's relations with the EU and the need to arrive at a clear-cut definition about human rights and terrorism in order to trace real terrorists in the world," Habibi added.

Terming his dialogue with Italy's president and premier as fruitful, he said Italy is determined to expand its ties with Iran.

Before returning home, Habibi on Monday met with the FAO Chief, Jacques Diouf, and called for immediate implementation of proposals put forward to the summit on elimination of poverty and hunger.

Meanwhile, Habibi sent a message to Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan when flying over the Turkish airspace on his way back to Tehran.

In his message Habibi expressed hope that Tehran-Ankara cooperation will help promote peace and stability in the region and wished the Turkish government and nation success and prosperity.

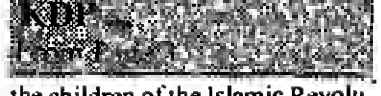
Habibi in his trip was accompanied by ministers of industries and mines and agriculture as well as the president's adviser and deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs.



forces, the admiral added.

He also said the third kilo-class diesel-electric submarine bought from Russia would leave for Iranian ports on November 25.

Iran took delivery of two such submarines in 1992 and 1993.



the children of the Islamic Revolution and is ready to remove all negative factors in bilateral ties," he said.

Sheikhholeslam responded by welcoming the KDP's good intentions and said that the Islamic Republic is for resumption of the past excellent relations with the Kurdish parties.

Iran had offered its services for ending the Kurdish fratricide in Northern Iraq in the wake of the bloody clashes last September and October between KDP and its main rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), IRNA reported.



yard and is ready to provide the MJF with ships and fishing boats.

Rafiqdoust said over 3,000 Spanish tourists have visited Iran in the past six months.



governor Valery Arbutov was sympathetic to the needs of the arts, but could not solve the problems alone. And unlike Moscow, Kostroma has no rich banks and companies who might act as sponsors.

The museum also refuses to increase the entry fee from 2,000 rubles (37 cents) for adults. It is free for children.

"People here are poor. They have to decide whether to buy sausage or go to the museum. I want to make it possible for them to do both," Ignatyev said.

Despite his frail health and the lack of money, he and his team want to keep the museum open as long as they can.

"As long as we live, the museum will live," said Stanislav Rybankov, Ignatyev's 50-year-old deputy. "But I don't know what we will be living on."



year, along with Laos and Cambodia.

Malaysia, being the ASEAN chairman for 1997, will host key ASEAN ministerial meetings in Kuala Lumpur next year.



Pope Accepts Invitation to Visit Cuba

VATICAN CITY, VATICAN (AFP) - Pope John Paul II has accepted an invitation from Cuba's President Fidel Castro to visit the Communist island for the first time, a Vatican spokesman said yesterday following talks between the two men.

"President Castro renewed his invitation to the Pope to go to Cuba next year and the latter has accepted," spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said, adding that no exact date for the visit had been set.

Cuba is the only country in predominantly Catholic Latin America to which the 76-year-old



pontiff has not traveled during his papacy. An initial invitation by Cuba was made in May 1989, but for reasons that never were made public, the visit did not take place.

However, yesterday's 35-minute meeting between the Cuban leader and the Pope comes amid steadily improving relations between Havana and the Vatican, and had been expected to pave the way for the unprecedented visit.

The two leaders discussed "the normalization of the conditions of the Cuban church and the general role of believers in the life of the country," Navarro-Valls said.

Bhutto Says Killers Out to Get Her

KARACHI, PAKISTAN (AFP) - Ousted Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said she and key members of her party may now be assassination targets.

In an interview with AFP, Bhutto said she had received information that she, former Sindh Province Chief Minister Abdullah Shah and others would be the target of killers.

"I know that a program is being made to assassinate, physically eliminate myself and Abdullah Shah and various party leaders. But we are not afraid because life and death is in God's hands," Bhutto said late Monday.

She did not say who was behind the conspiracy, but added that supporters of her estranged murdered brother, Murtaza Bhutto, could be used. Murtaza, who ran his own Pakistan Peoples Party (Shaheed Bhutto Group) was slain in a police shoot-out with seven followers.

Chiluba Heading for Landslide Victory in Zambia

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA (AFP) - Zambia's incumbent Head of State Frederick Chiluba was yesterday heading for a landslide victory in a presidential poll, while his party had done well in general elections, according to early results.

Results of Monday's poll, from which Chiluba effectively excluded his predecessor and main rival, ex-Leader Kenneth Kaunda, released by the electoral office here indicated an easy win for the

former trade unionist. Chiluba has ruled Zambia since the historic multiparty elections in 1991.

Dean Mungomba of the Zambia Democratic Congress (ZDC) was trailing way behind in most of the constituencies, as were National Party President Humphrey Mulemba, agenda for Zambia's Akasimbabwa Lewanika and Clinton Chikomboka of the Movement for Democratic Process (MDP).

Samper Again Stares down Chance of Corruption Trial

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA (AFP) - Colombia's President Ernesto Samper faces a court decision this week that threatens to hit him hard with a drug-money corruption trial, months after Congress opted not to pursue charges.

The Constitutional Court is due to decide today if Congress' decision not to press charges that Sam-

per knew his 1994 presidential campaign took six million dollars in drug money was valid. If it says no, the trial in theory could reopen with a bang.

"This is a trial that already has had an outcome, a decision," Samper said Friday. "It would be unheard of for an entire judicial proceeding like that to be simply ignored."

CIA Official Charged with Spying

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, U.S.A. (AFP) - A senior Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official with a top-secret clearance was charged Monday with spying for Russia, two days after he was arrested trying to leave the country.

Harold Nicholson, 46, who has worked for the CIA for 16 years, was charged with conspiracy to commit espionage early Monday, allegedly for financial gain.

Beginning in 1994, Nicholson "revealed a significant amount of classified information," CIA Director John Deutch said.

U.S. Attorney Helen Fahey told a news conference Nicholson had received some \$120,000 since June 1994 from Russian intelligence services in exchange for confidential intelligence data.

"Mr. Nicholson betrayed his country for money. He was motivated not by ideology but by greed," Fahey said.

Nicholson, of Burke, Virginia, was arrested Saturday afternoon at Dulles International Airport near Washington as he prepared to fly to Switzerland to meet his Russian "handlers," federal officials said.

Meanwhile, it was reported from Washington that FBI Director Louis Freeh said Monday that U.S. intelligence agencies are working on other espionage cases.

"There will be other cases that involve the CIA, there will be other cases that involve other national security agencies," Central Intelligence Agency Director John Deutch said during the same interview.

According to Deutch, some 70 instances of spying have been uncovered over the last 20 years in the United States.



BANGKOK, THAILAND: Chaowalit Yongchaiyudh (third from left), the New Aspiration Party (NAP) leader who expects to become the next prime minister of Thailand, is flanked by four leaders of his proposed six-party coalition government as they announce their alliance. From left to right, Chalerm Yoobamrung of Muanchon, Samak Sundaravej of Prachakorn Thai, Chaowalit, Chatichai Choonhavan of Chart Pattana, Montri Pongpanich of Social Action and NAP Secretary-General Sanoh Thienthong. The NAP narrowly won Sunday's general elections which have been labeled the dirtiest in decades.

(AFP Photo)

Thai Coalition Partners Work to Allocate Portfolios

BANGKOK, THAILAND (AFP) - The leaders of the six parties in the new Thai coalition led by Prime Minister-apparent Chaowalit Yongchaiyudh moved yesterday to tackle the tough job of sharing out key posts.

Party leaders were to meet yesterday to begin allocating duties in a coalition government led by Chaowalit's New Aspiration Party (NAP), which beat the Democrat Party in the weekend election.

Chaowalit, a former army chief who has never concealed his ambition of becoming prime minister, should be named to the post next week once Parliament resumes and King Bhumibol Adulyadej formally approves his nomination.

However, his proposed coalition, which includes four members of the last fractious government, will have to survive what is expected to be fierce horse trading for key ministries.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Chaowalit said he would press the outgoing Cabinet, to have Parliament reconvene as early as possible and usher in the new government.

"The situation right now is not helpful, delays will only cause problems," an impatient Chaowalit said.

Outgoing Premier Banham Silpa-archa, who had reportedly been keen to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton during a visit here next week, said earlier he would propose that Parliament recon-

vene on December 6.

The NAP is to lead a six-party coalition government that brings the Chart Pattana Party of Chatichai Choonhavan out of the opposition and sidelines Banham.

All but two of the proposed coalition partners were members of Banham's unpopular government which was riven by infighting and faced almost constant attack from a hostile public and media after coming to power in July 1995.

The six parties in the planned coalition won 221 of the 393 seats in Parliament, 24 seats clear of the needed majority to form a government.

The NAP beat the democrats by 125 seats to 123.

Palestinian Woman Sentenced to 12 Years for 1977 Lufthansa Hijacking

HAMBURG, GERMANY (AP) - A Palestinian woman was convicted of murder and other crimes yesterday for her role in the 1977 hijacking of a German airliner that ended in a shoot-out with German commandos at an airport in Somalia.

Suhaila al-Sayeh, one of four members of a Palestinian gang that commandeered the Lufthansa airliner, was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Al-Sayeh, 43, insisted at the start of her trial that she had no part in the killing of the airliner's captain during a stop in South Yemen.

But the Hamburg State Supreme Court ruled that she was an accomplice in the killing. She was convicted of murder, hijacking an airliner, kidnapping and attempted murder.

During Al-Sayeh's trial, a former crew member testified that at one point she threatened to pour gasoline onto the co-pilot and set him on fire.

Al-Sayeh was the only one of four Palestinian hijackers to survive when German commandos stormed the Lufthansa plane on Oct. 18, 1977 in Mogadishu, Somalia, and freed the 87 hostages.

Miss World Gets Indian Court Go-Ahead

BANGALORE, INDIA (AFP) - An Indian state court ruled here yesterday the final stages of the Miss World Beauty contest should go ahead as long as there was no "nudity or obscenity".

Two judges of the Karnataka High Court made the ruling after a petition was brought against the pageant, being held in India for the first time and which culminates at the weekend with judging and crowning ceremonies.

The petition brought by Hindu feminist K.N. Shashikala who has threatened to burn herself to death in protest.

Chinese Troubled Girl Kidnaps Children

SHANGHAI, CHINA (AFP) - A 12-year-old girl from a broken home has been taken into police custody for abducting younger children and brutally beating them up to compensate for her own unhappiness, news reports said yesterday.

Xu, who suffered beatings at home from her divorced father, had abducted a four-year-old girl in September and forced the younger child to beg in the streets by beating her.



MOSCOW, RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Russian President Boris Yeltsin, recovering from a multiple heart bypass operation, takes tea with his wife Naina (R) and granddaughter Masha (L) in his private rooms at the Central Clinic Hospital Nov. 15. Yeltsin is set to leave the clinic near the end of this week and stay at a convalescence home in the western suburbs of Moscow. EDS NOTE: This photo was released to the Russian press Nov. 16 and made available to international agencies Nov. 18.

(AFP Photo)

Bangladesh President May Move on Political Impasse

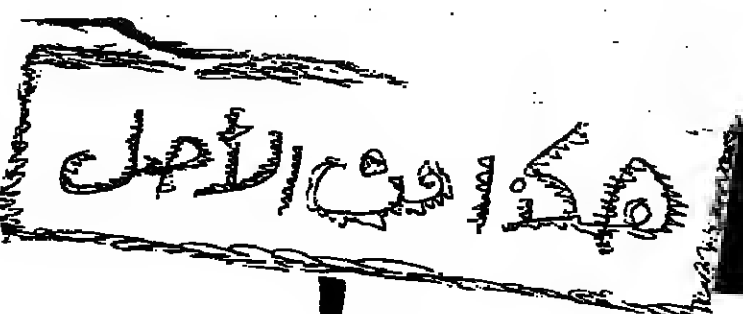
DHAKA, BANGLADESH (AFP) - Bangladesh's President Shabuddin Ahmed may intervene to end a parliamentary boycott by the main opposition party following talks with its Leader Khaleda Zia, newspapers reported here yesterday.

Zia, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chief and former prime minister, has described the week-long action as a "parliamentary strike."

In talks with Ahmed late Monday, she handed the president a petition reiterating allegations that BNP lawmakers were not given enough time to speak in Parliament and that her supporters were being "harassed" by police.

The government has denied the allegations.

The BNP appealed to Ahmed to "play a role" in resolving the crisis.



IRAN

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Relations

Shuttle Blaze in Mid-Channel Tunnel

CALAIS, FRANCE (AFP) - Firemen from France and Britain put out a fire aboard a freight shuttle in the middle of the channel tunnel yesterday after fighting the blaze throughout the night.

It was the first serious incident since the 1994 opening of the tunnel. Eight people were injured.

A 6:15 a.m. (05:15 GMT), operating company Eurotunnel reported firemen had virtually extinguished the fire, which started aboard a truck. Two of the eight injured suffered severe smoke inhalation, and six trucks were destroyed. The other 26 passengers and crew were under observation.

Eurotunnel shares shed 3.5 percent to 88 pence, about four percent, when the London Stock Exchange opened, but recovered slightly by mid-morning.

Eurotunnel Security Director Clive Durrant said on BBC radio that a bi-national emergency plan had "worked exactly as we anticipated. The operation was led by the French through 100 fire offi-

cers from Kent have been involved in containing the incident."

Meanwhile hospital sources in Lille said the two people most seriously affected by fumes from the blaze were in intensive care but their condition did not give rise to concern.

A joint statement from Eurotunnel and French local authorities said the blaze also damaged the rear locomotive of the train.

The fire broke out around 10:00 p.m. Monday aboard the shuttle, which was carrying 29 trucks and their 31 occupants, together with three train crew, when it was 17 kilometers (10 miles) from the French coast on its way to England.

The incident occurred only 10 days after an annual security exercise to test the reaction capability of emergency services in conditions as near to real as possible. As well as the freight and car shuttles, the tunnel is used by the high-speed Eurostar passenger trains connecting London with Paris and Brussels.

Canadian General Discusses Zaire Force with Rwandan Government

KIGALI, RWANDA (AFP) - The Canadian commander of a proposed multinational military force to help refugees in conflict-torn eastern Zaire yesterday went into talks with the Rwandan government, which opposes the deployment.

When General Maurice Baril arrived in Kigali, he met Rwandan Vice-President and Defense Minister Paul Kagame, whose government said that Hutu refugees in Zaire were now free to return home and no foreign intervention was needed.

France yesterday insisted that a force should go in, since hundreds of thousands of refugees remained in eastern Zaire, but several countries were reassessing the mission.

More than 500,000 Hutus have flooded back into Rwanda since Friday, after battles in Zaire's Goma region on the border when mainly Tutsi rebels fought armed militiamen and Rwandan former government troops among the refugees.

These men were reported to have withdrawn westwards into Zaire, enabling people they had held under their sway in sprawling camps for more than two years to return home.

Meanwhile, Pentagon officials said yesterday that the United States will likely provide U.S. forces only in a support - not a security role - to the multinational force for Zaire because of the



GISENYI, RWANDA: Rwandan refugee children, who lost their parents during the exodus and who have been taken in by humanitarian organizations, stand at a transit camp in the border town of Gisenyi Nov. 17. Some 300,000 refugees were expected to return from Zaire by nightfall Nov. 17. (AFP Photo)

changed circumstances.

Initially, the United States planned to deploy about 1,000 troops on the ground in Zaire, the bulk of them an enhanced battalion of airborne troops from a base in Vicenza, Italy, to secure the airport in Goma, Zaire, and open a short

corridor to Gisenyi, Rwanda.

According to United Nations from Bujumbura Zairean Tutsi rebels controlling eastern Zaire continued yesterday to block relief agencies trying to cross the border from Burundi to assess the situation in the Uvira plain, the said.

Chirac Denies Plan to Sell French Aircraft Carrier to China

TOKYO, JAPAN (AFP) - French President Jacques Chirac denied yesterday that France planned to sell the aircraft carrier Clemenceau to China.

"I have never heard about a Chinese request on this matter," he told a news conference in Tokyo, denying recent reports in the Far Eastern Economic Review and Japanese newspapers including the Sankei Shinbun.

The French government would "never envisage... selling the Clemenceau to China or anyone else," Chirac said.

"There are European Union rules on arms exports, notably to China. In any case, France has no intention of contravening rules to which it has to abide."

Final Full Moon for Father Christmas

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AFP) - Christmas this year will be celebrated for the fifth and last time this century on a full moon night, the Press Trust of India said yesterday.

Christmas had coincided with the full moon in 1911, 1920, 1931 and 1970.

The next Christmas full moon will be in 2015. Piyush Pandey, assistant director of Calcutta's Birla Planetarium told the news agency.

Pandey said Christmas has coincided with the full moon 71 times since the beginning of the Christian era to the year 2000.

Belarusian Prime Minister Resigns

MINSK, BELARUS (AP) - The confrontation between Belarus' parliament and President Alexander Lukashenko heated up Monday and lawmakers voted up in the parliament building overnight threatened to impeach him.

Prime Minister Mikhail Chigir resigned to protest Lukashenko's policies, according to parliament leaders. Lukashenko accepted his resignation, deciding it as a "political" step.

The turmoil in the former Soviet republic came a day after another government crackdown on an opposition demonstration.

Lukashenko and parliament have been locked in a standoff over a constitutional referendum.

Japanese TNT Factory on Fire

TOKYO, JAPAN (AFP) - Japanese chemical manufacturer Chugoku Kasei Corp. said yesterday that an explosion triggered a huge blaze at the same TNT plant in Hiroshima where three people died in another explosion in April.

"The fire is still burning and firemen cannot get into the facility," a company spokesman said an hour and a half after the explosion took place.

Clinton Arrives for Visit to Australia

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (AFP) - U.S. President Bill Clinton arrived here yesterday at the start of a five-day working and holiday visit to Australia.

The U.S. leader flew in from Honolulu with wife Hillary, more than 20 minutes behind schedule. Security was very tight and guards scanned the area with binoculars from the roofs of the airport buildings.

The Clintons were greeted by Governor-General Sir William Deane and his wife Lady Helen, Prime Minister John Howard and other prominent figures.

Clinton is to meet Howard in Canberra today and hold a joint press conference. He is to address a joint sitting of Parliament in the federal capital before returning to

Sydney and taking a cruise on the city's spectacular harbor.

The Howard-Clinton talks are likely to focus on bilateral trade issues, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders summit next week and relations with China, which have plummeted for Australia since Howard moved to reinvigorate the U.S.-Australia strategic alliance.

Tomorrow the U.S. leader makes an open-air address in Sydney and flies later to the tropical northern resort of port Douglas for two days' relaxation.

Clinton is the third U.S. president to visit Australia: Lyndon Johnson made two visits in the 1960s and George Bush made a three-day visit in 1991.



ASWAN, EGYPT: Boys in the southern town of Aswan Nov. 18 try to rescue a child caught in floods that swept the town. One person was killed by a short circuit and hundreds of homes damaged as torrential rains lashed southern Egypt since Friday causing floods in some areas. Many houses in agricultural areas are built from mud bricks, which do not stand up to heavy rain. (AFP Photo)

The World at a Glance



BEIJING, CHINA - Chinese President Jiang Zemin will pay landmark visits to the Philippines and India as part of a tour that will also include Pakistan and Nepal, Foreign Ministry spokesman Cui Tiankai said yesterday.

CAIRO, EGYPT - The death toll from flooding in south Egypt and the Sinai region has climbed to at least six but 50 tourists trapped by rising waters were rescued, the official news agency MENA reported yesterday.

MANAGUA, NICARAGUA - Nine people who drowned in the Rio Grande while attempting to cross from Mexico to the United States over the weekend were Pakistani nationals.

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA - The activist Muslim Party controlling Malaysia's state assembly said on Monday it was prepared to team up with Prime Minister Mahathir Mahamad's party to run northeastern Kelantan.

NEW DELHI, INDIA - A court granted bail to former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in a forgery case yesterday and ordered him not to leave India during his trial, a local news agency reported.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA - Three people have been arrested in connection with a blast that wrecked an apartment building in the southern Russian Republic of Dagestan, killing 68 people.

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA - A brother-in-law of second Prime Minister Hun Sen was shot and killed yesterday morning in what police speculated was political assassination as he left a restaurant after finishing breakfast, police reported.

(DISPATCHES)

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LUNCH 12:00-15:00 DINNER 18:30-23:00

Huber Humbled in WTA Opener

NEW YORK (AFP) - Anke Huber was the runner-up at last year's WTA championships. But this time, she could not even manage to win a set. Croatia's Iva Majoli beat the German 7-5, 6-3, here Monday to open the \$2 million event, a season-ending showdown of 1996's top 16 players.

"Losing in the first round, especially here, is always a disappointment," Huber said. "I never really got into the match. I never felt comfortable on the court. That is the reason Iva won." In other first-round matches, American Lindsay Davenport defeated Austria's Judith Wiesner 6-3, 6-0.

Sports Highlights

Hill Ousted in a Bad Tampered Match

KARACHI (AFP) - World number nine Anthony Hill of Australia was ousted in a bad tampered second round match, the worst on the squash courts for years, in the World Open Squash Championship here Tuesday.

World number 16 Zubair Jahan Khan accounted for the removal of Hill but not before he was hit on the chest in the fifth and final game and received medical attention outside the court after falling down on the floor.

Zubair won the temperament-enduring match 15-8, 10-15, 15-4, 13-15, 15-12 in 68 minutes. Zubair had caused the first upset on Monday when he eliminated world number eight Mark Chaloner of England.

Hill lost in the semi-final of the world open against Jansher Khan last year and was banned for three months for his antics after that, he was given a conduct warning in the first game.

The Australian walked off the court in the third and the fifth game. Referee Munir Shah of Singapore could not control the players despite several offenses.

"The match went to full distance just because of the referee... because he got influenced by the antics of Hill. He is the most notorious player on the squash circuit and when he hit me with his racket in the fifth game the referee gave the point against me," said an angry Zubair in his post-match comments.

Hill refused comments and had arguments with the tournament director Hasan Musa. Musa retorted, "I can throw you out from here."

Right from the outset, Hill appeared to be deliberately looking for lets, but Zubair kept his cool, winning it 15-8. After the conduct warning to Hill, with Zubair leading 11-8, the Australian player did not go for his shots and gave away four points.

Hill won the second game 15-10 but was outplayed by Zubair in the third which was won by his opponent 15-4. Hill went out of the court on a point given against him but came back on referee's call.

Tiger Steals Greg's Limelight

SYDNEY (AFP) - Tiger Woods stole Greg Norman's limelight here Tuesday, then showed he was as human as his Australian Open Pro-Am partners by making two air swings.

Norman, for one, could not have been happier when Woods drew a gallery of several hundred, noticeably larger than his own, as they played three groups apart in the lead up to the Australian Open, starting here Thursday.

"I think it's fantastic," said a relaxed Norman. "Let him have all the attention."

"I've been having it for 20 years of my life and sometimes it's nice to stop and see how someone else handles it. If 10,000 people come and watch him and I'll watch me that wouldn't bother me one bit."

Meanwhile, Craig Parry reckoned the switch of focus to Woods made Norman a stronger favorite for a fifth Open title in his 20th appearance in the tournament.

"Norman is less hassled by the media," said Parry, a New South Wales Open winner on the often wind-affected course where the greens can bake hard.

"Tiger is a very good player but he doesn't know how the course can get and what the greens can get like."

A jet-lagged Woods was distinctly less than superman-like on the front nine, but came a little later.

He hit only three of seven fairways to be three over par on the way out, and only three of the first 10 greens, before getting the last eight in a row for four birdies to finish at one under 71.

But it was his air shots from rough behind the 6th and 9th greens that amazed onlookers.

Attempting to lift the ball lightly onto the green, he swung his open faced wedge right under the ball, getting no contact.



SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND: Benito Carboni (R) of Sheffield Wednesday gets in a shot toward the Nottingham Forest goal in their Premiership match late November 18 in Sheffield. Nottingham Forest was defeated 0-2. (AFP Photo)

IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

VOL. III No. 609 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials

Wednesday November 20, 1996, Aban 30, 1375, Rajab 8, 1417



HANNOVER, GERMANY: Seven of the eight best tennis players, (L-R, back) Dutch Richard Krajicek, Croat Goran Ivanisevic and German Boris Becker, and (L-R, front) Austrian Thomas Muster, Russian Yevgeni Kafelnikov, and Michael Chang and Pete Sampras from the U.S. pose for photographers in Hannover November 18, after the draw of the groups for the ATP World Championships. Andre Agassi from the U.S. could not attend the photo session. (AFP Photo)

South Africa Gamble on Pace

AHMEDABAD, INDIA (AFP) - South Africa plan to unleash their famed pace attack on a spinner's wicket to try and win the first test against India starting here today.

The Indians have won 12 of the last 16 home tests wickets on dry wickets tailor-made for their traditional strength in spin bowling, but the South Africans are not falling for the bait.

The tourists, seeking revenge for the stunning defeat in the final of the one-day series earlier this month, are confident their pace battery led by Allan Donald can be equally devastating.

"Pace bowlers have won test matches in India in the past, so there's no reason why we can't do it," South African coach Bob Woolmer said ahead of his team's first-ever test on Indian soil.

Woolmer's trademark lap-top computer shows that India's last test defeat at home was fashioned by the West Indian fast bowlers, led by skipper Courtney Walsh and Kenny Benjamin, at Mohali in 1994.

The South African pace bowlers proved the point by cornering 37 of the 40 wickets during their two warm-up games preceding the test, won comfortably by 244 runs and 111 wickets.

While the Indians will take the field with three spinners on a barren wicket that skipper Sachin Tendulkar predicts will crack by the second day, the South Africans may go in with three fast bowlers.

Donald, the pace spearhead with 114 wickets from 25 tests, seamer Fanie de Villiers and all-rounder Brian McMillan are the

leading contenders to share the new ball.

The South Africans can also choose from rookie seamer Lance Klusener and spinners Paul Adams and Pat Symcox to complete a formidable five-man attack.

"We have the right balance to tackle any situation," skipper Hansie Cronje warned. "The batsmen may be short of runs, but I am not worried about the bowling."

Tendulkar, buoyed by the seven-wicket victory over Australia last month in his first test as captain and the defeat of South Africa in the one-day final, was optimistic.

"It's not going to be easy, but I am confident we can win," the 24-year-old said. "The conditions favor us, it'll be stupid not to make use of the advantage of playing at home."

The Indians have played only one-day cricket for a month, but Tendulkar was not worried about his team's lack of practice in the longer version of the game.

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Graf Vows She Is Ready to Play

NEW YORK (AFP) - A sore back and aching left knee will not be enough to keep world co-number one Steffi Graf from defending her title here at the WTA championship.

"I'm here to play," The German star told WTA officials Monday at the \$2 million event. Back pain caused Graf to quit against Jana Novotna in the final of a WTA tournament Sunday in Philadelphia, an event she almost decided not to play because of an injured left knee. Graf dropped out of a semi-final in Leipzig last month against Anke Huber due to knee pain and did not play in the European indoors.

National Football League American Conference

Buffalo	8	3	0
New England	7	4	0
Indianapolis	6	5	0
Miami	6	5	0
N.Y. Jets	1	10	0
Pittsburgh	8	3	0
Houston	6	5	0
Cincinnati	4	7	0
Jacksonville	4	7	0
Baltimore	3	8	0
Denver	10	1	0
Kansas City	8	3	0
San Diego	6	5	0
Seattle	5	6	0
Oakland	4	7	0

National Conference

Washington	8	3	0
Dallas	7	4	0
Philadelphia	7	4	0
Arizona	5	6	0
N.Y. Giants	4	7	0
Green Bay	8	3	0
Minnesota	6	5	0
Detroit	5	6	0
Chicago	4	7	0
Tampa Bay	3	8	0
San Francisco	8	3	0
Carolina	7	4	0
St. Louis	3	8	0
Atlanta	2	9	0
New Orleans	2	9	0

Sunday's Games:

Carolina 20, St. Louis 10
Kansas City 14, Chicago 10
Buffalo 31, Cincinnati 17
Denver 34, New England 8
Pittsburgh 28, Jacksonville 3
Atlanta 17, New Orleans 15
Indianapolis 34, New York Jets 29
Detroit 17, Seattle 16
Washington 26, Philadelphia 21
San Francisco 38, Baltimore 20
Miami 23, Houston 21
Arizona 31, New York Giants 23
Tampa Bay 25, San Diego 17
Minnesota 16, Oakland 13

Monday's Games:

Dallas 21, Green Bay 0



LOU HOLTZ

OPEC Will Not C Production C...

Donors Pledge \$8 Sri Lanka

کتابخانه

Australia to Complain to Clinton About Discriminatory Trade Rules

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA (AP) - President Clinton's vacation here won't be pure pleasure, with Prime Minister John Howard saying Tuesday he will complain about U.S. trade practices and global trade rules that cost Australia thousands of jobs and millions of export dollars.

Just hours before Clinton's arrival in Sydney, Howard said world trade rules let governments help subsidize foodstuffs and raw materials but not manufactured goods.

"The inefficient producers of primary products get help from their governments, such as the Europeans and on occasions the Americans and Japanese as well, and that subsidized produce is then really dumped into our markets, we lose them," Howard said. "If we were to turn around and

do the same thing with some of our manufacturing exports, we would be in trouble under world trade rules and that is the unfair, unbalanced world trading scene.

"That kind of thing I will certainly talk about" with Clinton at their meeting Wednesday in Canberra, Howard said.

In fact, the United States has filed a complaint to the World Trade Organization about Melbourne-area leather manufacturer Howe and Co., which gets export credits to sell leather car seats to U.S. auto manufacturers.

Two American leather manufacturers complained that the export credits enabled Howe and Co. to cut its price quotes by 25 percent, underbidding the U.S. companies and winning a U.S.\$211 million contract.

OPEC Will Not Change Production Ceiling in 1997

LONDON (AFP) - The Organization of Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC) is likely to leave its production ceiling unchanged for the first half of 1997 at its next meeting in Vienna on November 27, the Center for Global Energy Studies (CGES) said on Monday.

The London-based research body, founded by Saudi Arabia's former oil minister Sheikh Ahmed Yamani, said that member countries "are unlikely to risk revising output quotas at their forthcoming meeting, as this would raise too many difficult questions."

At its last meeting in June, OPEC decided to raise its produc-

tion ceiling to 25.03 million barrels per day from 24.52 million, as a means of making room for about 800,000 barrels per day of exports from Iraq.

Baghdad was expected to resume oil exports in late 1996 for the first time since the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

Crude prices have risen sharply in recent weeks in the face of reduced stocks in consumer countries and the prolonged absence of Iraqi oil.

The CGES said in its monthly report that "it is now virtually impossible for Iraqi oil exports to flow this year."

(P)GCC, EU Pledge Gas Cooperation

DOHA (AFP) - Around 300 delegates from the European Union and the six-member (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council on Monday wound up a two-day conference here pledging to work more closely on gas-related issues.

The conference, bringing together representatives of the private and public sectors from both regional groupings, issued a statement saying they had debated "better ways of implementing cooperation on the ground in the gas sector."

The statement added the Persian Gulf countries hoped to become "in the next few years one of the main exporters of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Europe."

"We are turning to Europe for the future," Qatar Energy and Industry Minister Abdallah ibn

Hanad al-Attiya told journalists, adding his country hoped to wrap up major gas deals with Europe before 2000.

Qatar said Sunday it hoped eventually to sell liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Europe once demand outstrips supply from Algeria, Norway and Russia which currently offer much cheaper gas than (P)GCC countries.

The Persian Gulf states hold nearly 14 percent of the world's natural gas reserves but are extracting only 0.5 percent. They currently export only four percent of their gas production, with the rest for local consumption.

Unlike oil production, producers of natural gas must obtain long-term orders before making the investment required to develop the resource.

Donors Pledge \$860m to Sri Lanka

PARIS (AP) - The World Bank said Monday that donor countries pledged \$860 million to Sri Lanka during their latest round of consultations.

The amount pledged was more than the \$700 million to \$800 million in aid expected for the developing nation.

Donors said they were heartened by Sri Lanka's progress in privatization, but still hoped for increased transparency and public administration reform.

Additional money is available for reconstruction in the northeast should there be peace in Sri Lanka. The Tamil separatist war there has claimed more than 50,000 lives since 1972.

World Bank consultative group

chairwoman Micko Nishimizu said Monday that most of the \$860 million was in the form of loans directed toward projects involving the environment, transportation, education and health sectors.

She said that among the projects was the development of Sri Lanka's electricity utility, which currently relies only on hydro-electric power.

Additional funds will go toward the health and education sectors.

The country's aging population has created a new set of health care needs and its developing economy had created jobs that require special training, Nishimizu said.

World Food Summit a Damp, Expensive Squib

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The U.N. World Food Summit in Rome served up platitudes, showed the West's lack of concern and ran up huge bills, Indian newspapers said in scathing commentaries Tuesday.

The five-day summit of 187 nations in Rome - which ended Sunday relegated to the background what the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) considers the universal goal of "food for all," they said.

"It is a pity that the summit did not receive the kind of attention and support from the international community - especially from the industrialized nations - it deserved," the Hindustan Times daily said.

"That a large number of Western leaders chose to stay away from the summit was indicative of the scant regard to that they showed to the event."

"Western participants also sought to deflect the course of the summit by posing the issue of population growth against food security."

The Indian Express, meanwhile, attacked Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, who frequently describes himself as a "humble farmer's son."

"Deve Gowda journeyed to Italy because (India) thinks it is a good idea for prime ministers to be permanent fixtures of global summits which have become dreary features of Boutros-Boutros Ghali's stewardship of the U.N."

The net result, the editorial said, was "little precious."

The newspaper underlined the point with a headline: "80 meals, 90 summiters, U.N. picks up 10.5-million-dollar food bill", adding: "Today the world population of the hungry is estimated to be 800 million, of whom 500 million are in Asia alone."

The Business Standard said the summit was "lackluster", with only Cuban leader Fidel Castro

breaking ground rules by asking why farmers in the U.S. and Europe were being paid to idle their land while millions were starving.

It agreed with Castro that a plan to halve the number of hungry in the world by 2015 was "a shamefully modest target."

The first paragraph of the "Rome declaration on world food security" affirmed "the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent

with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.

"Food should not be used as an instrument for political and economic pressure."

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), who held a parallel summit in Rome, criticized "wealth and power, which now threatens global food security, cultural diversity, and the very ecosystems that sustain life on the planet."

Canada, Chile Sign Free Trade Pact

OTTAWA (AFP) - Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Chilean President Eduardo Frei signed a free trade agreement between their two countries on Monday.

The agreement is designed to pave the way for Chile's eventual accession to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) which currently comprises Canada, Mexico and the United States.

At a press conference, Chretien said he understood that U.S. President Bill Clinton would resume his efforts soon to obtain fast-track negotiating authority from congress to enable NAFTA-Chile talks to begin.

Hopes for an agreement to expand NAFTA to embrace Chile by



CHRETIEN

the end of 1995 fell through after Clinton failed to persuade the republican-dominated congress to agree to let his administration negotiate a deal which congress could only approve or reject in its entirety.

Zedillo Takes Themes of Trade and Investment to Asia

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Trade and investment will be the key themes of Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo's upcoming trip to China, the Philippines, Singapore and South Korea, Mexican diplomats said Monday.

Zedillo will also attend the fourth Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit to be held in the Philippines November 24 and 25.

The presidential trip will begin November 21, when Zedillo goes to China to meet with the popular nation's prime minister and

president, then travels to Shanghai where he will meet with Asian and Mexican businessmen.

Zedillo will work on "allowing a larger flow of trade and investment" between China and Mexico, foreign affairs vice-minister Sergio Gonzalez Galvez told a press conference.

On November 26, Zedillo will make an official visit to Singapore.

His trip to South Korea will be the first ever by a Mexican president.

New Romanian Leader Signals Change of Economic Track

BUCHAREST (Reuters) - Romania's new president has pledged swift economic reform and a welcome for foreign investment in what analysts say may be a bright start for the Balkan country's rule by non-communists.

Emil Constantinescu, whose centrist democratic convention won parliamentary polls earlier this month, emerged victorious in Sunday's presidential election, with exit polls placing him in a comfortable seven points ahead of his rival Ion Iliescu.

"The time for action has begun. From this moment we'll have to work. We will have an austerity program as the economic crisis is much deeper than in 1992," Constantinescu said.

Analysts welcomed Constantinescu's warning that painful sacrifice was needed to put Romania's unhealthy economy back on track and said the electoral clean sweep had given reformists the credibility they need to take drastic measures.

But they say they are still waiting for specifics on how promising words will be turned into action.

"After the euphoria of victory, winners should rapidly turn to the raw reality, which means a plunging leu currency, burdening trade



CONSTANTINESCU

and budget gaps and upsets in the banking system," economist Teodor Nicolaescu said.

"Constantinescu's election is definitely a positive development but we will wait and see how his government tackles the fundamental problems before we encourage foreigners to invest heavily," said Mark Holdsworth of ING Barings in London.

Constantinescu has already promised to implement reforms which stalled under ex-communist Iliescu's seven year rule.

His campaign pledges intertwined reforms - including faster privatization, liberalization of currency markets and tough financial and monetary moves - with promises of higher pensions, child benefits and social welfare.

Analysts warned the new cabi-

net may have to give up costly social promises to secure international financial support it needs to plug deficit gaps and fund a hefty winter energy bill.

"We must take advantage of the good signals Iliescu's departure has sounded, showing Romania has for ever parted with communism," Nicolaescu said.

Economists urged the new government to present a detailed reform strategy, immediate steps to cool the overvalued leu currency and restrictions on monetary expansion and spending.

"In the months ahead we can expect blips in inflation owing to a markedly depreciated leu and to slippages in the budgetary and monetary policies of the past months," Nicolaescu said.

The leu currency has sunk to a street value of 5,100 to the dollar, a 44 percent depreciation in a month, although its official value is a trade-busting 3,485.

Inflation, cut to 28 percent last year, soared to 45 percent at end-August and budget and trade deficits surged.

"All these issues imply that the economy must be managed with a firm hand. They have to assume the risk to let the leu float as pressure on it is on the rise," Nicolaescu said.

Economic Digest

RIYADH - Saudi Arabia's non-oil exports are expected to be 27 percent higher this year than last, the commerce minister said in comments published Monday.

Osama Fakeeh said that non-oil exports are projected at 30 billion riyals (\$8 billion) in 1996 compared with 23.7 billion riyals (\$6.3 billion) in the previous year, the Arab News reported.

The English-language newspaper said he spoke on the sidelines of an export promotion exhibition Sunday in the eastern city of Jiddah.

Crude oil is the mainstay of the Saudi economy, but the kingdom is trying to diversify exports.

KUWAIT - Kuwait has decided to loan the cash-strapped U.N. compensation commission \$5 million so it can continue investigating Persian Gulf war damages and paying reparations to victims.

Kinwait news agency said the step was approved in Sunday's cabinet meeting in order to "safeguard the rights" of the victims of Iraq's 1990 invasion of this oil-rich state.

The oil-for-food agreement between Iraq and the United Nations was expected to provide the Geneva-based panel with \$100 million each month, but it is not yet in place.

The deal allows Baghdad to sell \$1 billion of oil every 90 days to buy food and medicine for its people and pay for war damages.

Kuna did not provide any further details about the loan.

Kuwait estimates its losses from the seven-month Iraqi occupation and the Persian Gulf war at \$116 billion.

Kuwait has received \$6.22 million from the panel and distributed the funds to citizens who lost relatives or were wounded in the war.

MANAMA - Bahrain Maritime and Mercantile International announced Monday it is investing 4 million dinars (\$10.6 million) in a new office and warehouse facility at the industrial area of Sitra.

It said in a press release that the facility at Sitra, 10 kilometers (6 miles) southeast of Manama, will be completed by end of 1997. The construction contract has been awarded to local companies Cybarco and Mohammed Sala-huddin.

NEW YORK - Tosco Corp. said it agreed to buy 76 Products Co., the refining and marketing unit of Unocal Corp., in a deal worth about \$2 billion that will create a powerhouse gasoline retailer on the U.S. west coast.

FRANKFURT - Deutsche Telekom AG Stock took off in a buying frenzy in Europe's biggest stock offering and the second biggest in history. The stock market exploded in a frenzy of activity, with more than 38 million shares changing hands - marking a revolution for Germans, who have traditionally been wary of investing in stocks.

NEW YORK - Mattel Inc., seeking to expand in the market for boys' toys, agreed to buy third-ranked Tyco Toys Inc. for \$755 million, the companies said.

CHICAGO - McDonnell Douglas Corp. stock tumbled after the defense department eliminated the company from the race to build a new-generation fighter jet that eventually could be worth \$200 billion or more.

Today in History

1924 - Kurdish revolt in Turkey is crushed.

1945 - Accused Nazi World War II criminals go on trial in Nuremberg, Germany.

1947 - England's Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten are married in London's Westminster Abbey.

1959 - Britain, Norway, Portugal, Austria, Denmark and Sweden meet to form European Free Trade Association.

1970 - Majority in UN General assembly votes to give China a seat, but two-thirds majority required for admission is not met.

1987 - Investigating police say arson is unlikely in London subway fire that took 30 lives.

1990 - Saddam Hussein orders another 250,000 Iraqi troops into Kuwait.

1991 - Mined roads hamper efforts to evacuate hundreds of wounded from Vukovar, Yugoslavia.

THE VALIANT SPACEMAN SPIFF IS BEING PURSUED BY A DISGUSTING SCUM BEING!



ATTENTION PLEASE!



I'M A MOODY LITTLE KID AND I'M SHOPPING FOR SCHOOL CLOTHES!



THIS IS NOT A DRILL!



I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY CLERKS GO ON THEIR BREAKS ALL AT ONCE!

I FEEL IT'S ONLY FAIR TO WARN THEM



WHY CAN'T I STAY UP LATE? YOU GUYS CAN!



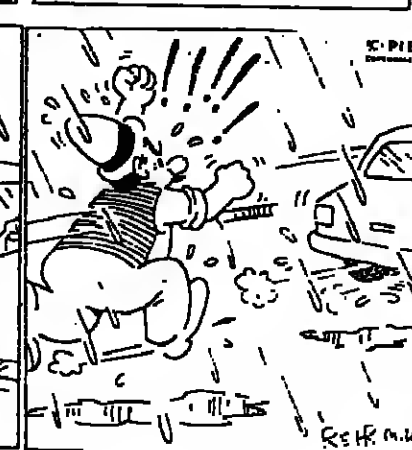
IT'S NOT FAIR!



THE WORLD ISN'T FAIR, CALVIN.



I KNOW, BUT WHY ISN'T IT EVER UNFAIR IN MY FAVOR?



'They almost let her die' Miracle Baby Who Was Just a Handful

She weighed just 14 ounces at birth and could fit easily into her father's hands.

And as doctors gave her a 100-1 chance of survival, Glenna Mitchell's anguished parents could only pray as their baby lost another two ounces in weight.

But today, after almost four months of heartache, proud parents Tonya and Tom are taking their daughter home for the first time.

Glenna was born by C-section on July 7 at less than 28 weeks after doctors said Tonya's high blood pressure and other health problems were endangering mother and baby.

Medics told the couple to expect the worst because their new baby had immature lungs, tiny organs and virtually no muscle.

"We told the family we didn't know if the baby would survive," said Dr. Charles Winslow, of Bladgett Memorial Medical Center, near Grand Rapids, Michigan.

"By early August she got very, very sick. So sick that my concern was she might have cardiac arrest."

Her parents even considered taking Glenna off the respirator. Tonya, 25, said: "We didn't want to lose her, but we didn't want to make her suffer more." But within five days, the baby began to improve — and the doctors admitted they were baffled.

Now weighing 4lb 7oz, Glenna is a "normal, healthy baby" who drinks formula milk and, amazingly, receives no medication.

"She was real sick and the doctors had to crank up the respirator. Her stomach was expanding and it looked very bad," said Tonya, a school assistant who works with handicapped children.



BLESSING: Glenna Mitchell

"She was suffering so much we contemplated taking her off the respirator. No one thought she was going to make it. But the doctors gave her steroids and she pulled through. You often hear such bad things about steroids, but they saved our baby's life."

"She really is a miracle and we thank God and the doctors for her survival. She was so small when she was born, she didn't even look like a baby."

"After what she's been through, we're sure this kid is going to go a long way in life. She's a survivor and we're really proud of her."

"We have a nursery all set up for her with Winnie the Pooh. We're just waiting for her to come home and fill the house. It's been a long time."

Tonya has been told by medical experts that she could have more children. "We'll think about that later," she smiled.

Tom, 34, said: "When we agreed to the C-section, we thought we were saving Tonya's life and would lose Glenna."

"The miracle is that both survived. We thank God she pulled through. She had a lot of people praying for her."

Glenna is one of the tiniest babies to survive in the U.S., according to Dr. Winslow.

"What amazes me is that she is a perfectly fine bouncing baby with no complications," he said. "She's going to do just fine now. To have one go home this healthy is uplifting. It keeps us going."

(Courtesy of Kuwait Times)

CORNUCOPIA

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YELCC

HAWSS

CYSTOL

PITTSY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHASM BERET NAUSEA STICKY
Answer: Why coupons are so popular with shoppers — THEY MAKE CENTS



A FAVORITE SELECTION AT A CHILDREN'S RECITAL

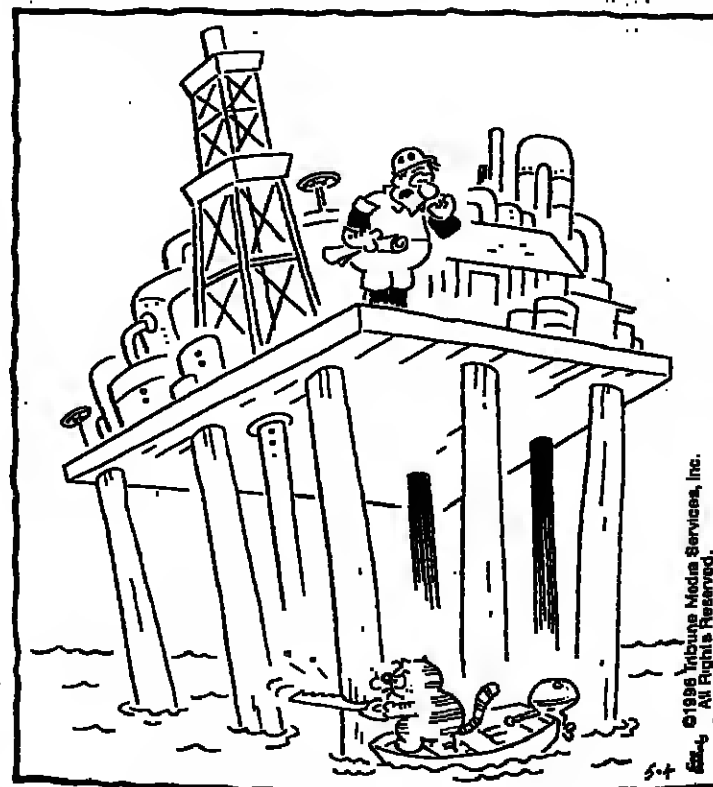
COLCHICUM VARIEGATUM L.

Family: Liliaceae



Plant closely related to the preceding one, it differs from it on account of its slightly smaller flowers. Leaves 2-4 lanceolate up to 15cm. in length. It grows in the woods of the mountain zone. Flowers September-October.

HEATHCLIFF



"HONEST, WE WON'T HARM THE FISH!"

کتابخانه

Researchers Use Heart Attacks to Cure Patients

HOUSTON (Reuters) - Physicians said earlier they were experimenting with a technique to induce a small heart attack in patients to cure their heart problems.

The method involves injecting ethanol, or pure alcohol, into enlarged hearts to kill excess tissue, thereby reducing strain on the organ, they said.

The originator of the technique, Ulrich Sigwart of Britain's Royal Brompton Hospital, assisted heart specialists Robert Roberts and William Spencer here when they performed it for the first time on a U.S. patient, a 33-year-old woman.

They said the woman was in good condition and her heart beating strongly.

Sigwart said the procedure has been done on about 100 patients in Europe, Canada and Asia since he

began using it 2 1/2 years ago. "The success rate has been very high," he said.

The hope is that it will be a tool that physicians can use instead of surgery to help patients with enlarged hearts, or cardiomyopathy.

"I found the idea appealing to create a small heart attack selectively in the area where we had too much muscle and do in essence the same thing as is being done by surgery," he said.

"It's much less invasive. You don't have to open the chest," Sigwart said of the procedure.

Sigwart said the alcohol did not enter the patient's bloodstream, therefore there were no intoxicating effects. But, he said, the procedure was not without pain.

"It hurts to get alcohol into the heart," he said.

Roberts, head of cardiology at

Houston's Methodist Hospital, said several milliliters of alcohol were injected into a specific region of the heart through a catheter fed into the body through the left main coronary artery.

It kills heart tissue - which is what happens during a heart attack because of lack of bloodflow - but only in parts of the heart selected by the physician.

Enlarged hearts, or cardiomyopathy, work harder to pump blood. The procedure reduces the heart's size and increases its pumping pressure, which eases the strain on the heart, Roberts said. Cardiomyopathy is often the cause of sudden death in athletes, who develop the condition because of a genetic abnormality, Roberts said.

Brazilian Study Finds Record Density of Tree Species

NEW YORK (AP) - Ecologists have found that a small patch of Brazilian rainforest contains 476 tree species, more than any spot of similar size ever studied.

All 476 species were confined to a 2.5-acre (one-hectare) plot, a Brazilian ecologist reported during the Atlantic Forest Ecological Corridors Workshop, a meeting held recently in the Brazilian state of Bahia.

The study area, located about 300 miles (500 kilometers) north-east of Rio de Janeiro, is part of a rain forest ecosystem that is frequently cited as one of the world's most endangered.

"It just re-emphasizes how important these threatened hotspot areas are," said Russell Mittermeier, who is president of Conservation International and attended

the mid-October meeting.

The study was done in the Atlantic coastal forest, an area of eastern Brazil that has been decimated since the Portuguese settled it 500 years ago. Ecologists estimate that about 5 percent of the original forest remains.

Conducted by Luciana Dias Thomaz of Brazil's Universidade Estadual Paulista, the study found 104 tree species that had never been seen in the Atlantic coastal forest before, and five that are completely new to science.

That number could increase as the study's results are analyzed more completely, said Wayt Thomas, an ecologist at the New York botanical garden who has done similar studies in the Atlantic coastal forest.

"It provides a little snapshot of

the forest," Thomas said.

Thomas was the first to try cataloging the number of species in small rain forest plots. His 1993 study of a 2.5-acre (one-hectare) section in the Brazilian state of Bahia found 458 species, 15 of them previously unknown. During the same year a similar study of the Amazon rain forest, which is

distinct from the Atlantic coastal ecosystem, found 473 species within the same area.

Ecologists are amazed at those numbers because, on average, a similar patch of North American temperate forest contains only two to 20 tree species.

"These are places that are very different from the rest of the disturbed, civilized world," Thomas said.

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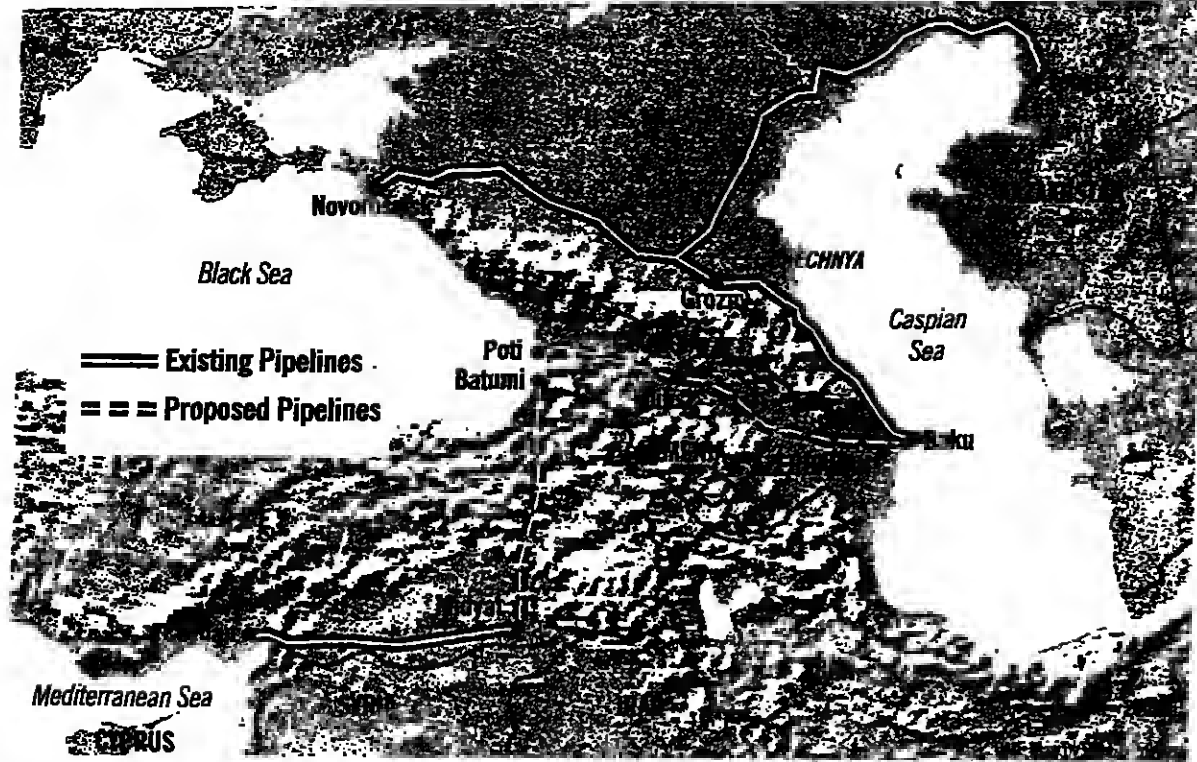
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Chechen Authorities Aim to Revive War-Ravaged Oil Industry



GROZNY, RUSSIA (AP) - Chechnya's new coalition government, dominated by the rebels who forced Moscow's hand after 21 months of war, plans to revive oil production in the republic and close private refineries which proliferated before and during the conflict.

Separatist Leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev signed a decree on October 12 outlining immediate steps to ensure a government monopoly on drilling and the production and sale of oil. But Khodz-Akhmed Yarikhanov, recently appointed director of the Chechen Southern Oil Company

by the separatist authorities, warns that regaining control of oil supplies will be "very tricky".

"In practice, production is controlled by very influential figures or armed groups, whom neither Yandarbiyev nor Prime Minister Aslan Maskhadov dares challenge openly yet."

During the war, which was halted by a peace accord signed on August 31, the separatists made some money from wells and pipelines they had captured, and some local warlords are loath to give up such lucrative resources.

And before the massive Russian military intervention in December 1994, Chechnya was a center for clandestine oil refining.

Former Independence Leader Dzhokhar Dudayev granted several groups, including units in his separatist army, the right to tap oil from pipelines, refine it and sell it.

Numerous small refineries now produce low-grade petrol, sold in big jars by the side of the road for 500 rubles (10 cents) per liter.

"Forcing the closure of these refineries would risk not only provoking armed clashes, but could be very unpopular, because the network for the extraction, refining, transportation and sale of oil is the only source of income for hundreds of families," Yarikhanov said.

However, in the coming months Maskhadov's government plans to crack down on black market oil sales, and funds have been allocated for the reconstruction of major refineries.

The large state refinery and one other refinery in Grozny are due to come on stream again in the coming days.

Meanwhile, the Chechen authorities accuse Moscow of failing to release funds to revive oil production.

A Russian-Chechen joint commission set up after the peace deal was signed, is working on new plans for the oil industry.

The Southern Oil Company estimates that reconstruction of oil installations in November and December will require investment of

303 billion rubles (\$60 million), since all the oil storage facilities were destroyed in the war.

The new Chechen government aims to reestablish oil production at two million tonnes annually in six months' time.

In the 1960s the former Soviet Republic of Chechno-Ingushetia produced 22 million tonnes of crude annually - almost one-third of total Soviet output.

But Chechnya's production went into decline in the 1970s, when the USSR began developing vast oilfields in Siberia, and the small north Caucasus republic's output had fallen to 3.6 million tonnes annually by 1991, the year the Soviet Union collapsed. Chechnya has remained an important refining center, strategically situated on the route of Russia's only pipeline carrying Caspian oil to the Black Sea port of Novorossiysk. During the war the pro-Russian Chechen government continued producing about 300,000 tonnes annually.

However, Moscow-backed Chechen Leader Doku Zavgayev halted official production in April 1996, while the war was still raging, alleging that huge quantities of oil were being stolen.



BLACK GOLD: Caspian production off Baku

Eyeing the Hurricane from the Inside Out

IN THE EYE OF HURRICANE FRAN (AP) - The winds howled at 120 miles (190 kilometers) an hour, tearing sheets of spray from seas as high as three-story buildings.

As the P-3 Orion research plane labored higher, ice particles clattered against its metal skin and cut visibility to less than wingtip distance.

While scientists monitored rattling racks of radar screens and other instruments, pilots manipulated control yokes, throttles and rudder pedals to keep the aircraft aloft. When hurricanes threaten, coastal dwellers board up, fuel up and head inland. Weather watchers cut to the chase - powering straight into the swirling clouds.

As hurricane Fran clobbered the Carolinas recently, 18 government flyers and scientists clambered aboard "Miss Piggy" - as the lurching laboratory is known to its crew - rocking and rolling right into the eye of the storm.

For frequent flyers, the ride was just another day at the office. "I told my mother I'm going out here to relax," said Capt. George Player, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Aircraft Operations Center, after a turn in the pilot's seat.

The 10-hour flight started with pass after pass through the storm at 5,000 feet (1,500 meters), while scientists probed every wind gust, pressure change and lightning bolt. Misty plumes blew from ducts in the plane as the air conditioning fought the wet atmosphere.

The Orion, one of the flagships of an NOAA air fleet based at McMillan Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, sent data to forecasters, before starting experiments to gauge electrical activity in the swirling clouds and rain bands.

Plunging into hurricanes is regular duty for the airborne research platforms, which go around the world to study severe storms, global climate changes, air chemistry and pollution, Arctic ice formation and oceanography.

Each storm is different, however, and a distinguishing mark of Fran was a ragged, cloud-filled center rather than a clean donut

hole down to the churning sea.

"It's a very cloudy eye, which will be fortunate for people along the coast," said hurricane watcher Mike Black, bouncing and swaying in the seat behind the pilot as his voice strained above the roar of the propeller engines.

At least Fran wasn't building to

category 4 strength - winds from 131 to 155 MPH (210 to 250 KPH) - as did hurricane Andrew in 1992 and hurricane Hugo in 1989, said Black, of NOAA's hurricane research division in Miami.

In bad storms, the pilot keeps both hands on the yoke while the flight engineer throttles the four

turboprop engines to keep the P-3 from being spun around or upended by violent updrafts and downdrafts.

"Once you know what's going on it all makes sense. Air pockets, turbulence, it's all part of the ride. In a sense, it is routine," said Brian Taggart, who needs at least

50 storm flights before he can command a hurricane plane.

Taggart, 34, whose father was an NOAA pilot, has waited a long time for his first turns at the controls in a hurricane. In high school, he took flying lessons after class, sometimes skipping classes, and got his pilot's license before

his diploma.

It's worth it, he said. "You're not flying a bus here. Every mission is unique."

The plane climbed to 20,000 feet (6,100 meters) for the electrical experiments that black and his colleagues had designed.

In hurricanes, the flyers said, flickering ball lightning - long known to sailors as Saint Elmo's fire - can build up on the air-sampling boom extending from the nose of the plane.

The pulsating glow may grow from basketball size to a globe six feet (1.8 meters) in diameter before it suddenly vanishes in a shimmering cascade back along the plane's hull.

Fast growing hurricanes tend to be electrically active, while mature or weakening storms produce less lightning, studies show. Researchers hope learning more about the electrical behavior of storms will mean better forecasts.

Hurricanes can tower up to 50,000 feet (15,240 meters). From 15,000 feet (4,570 meters) up, Fran, like others, was a swirling mass of subzero winds, snow and ice.

The aircraft bounced and creaked as it climbed, ice particles clanging noisily. But there was no lightning.

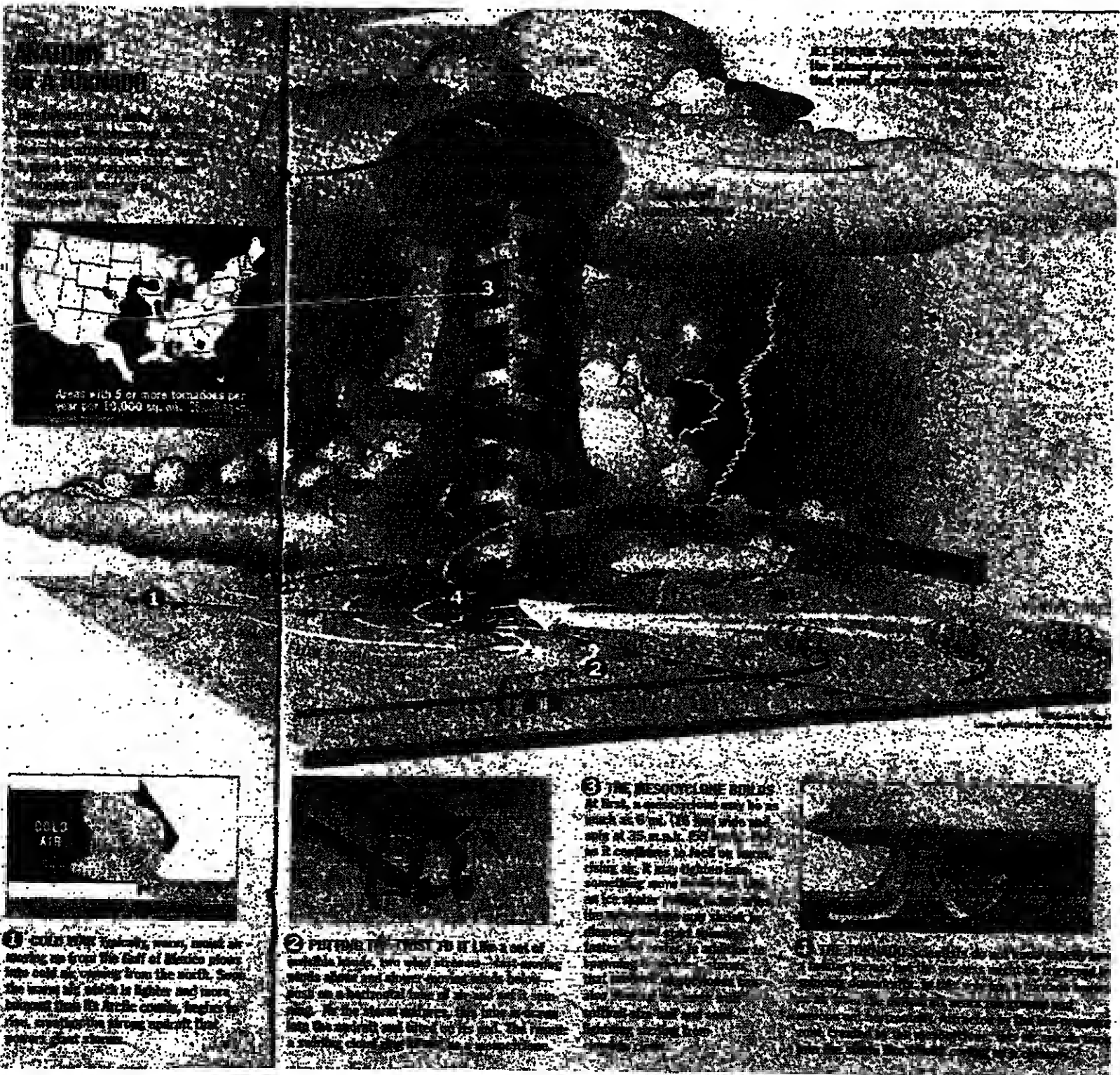
Electrically, Fran was a fizzle. Still, such chances for firsthand observation draw researchers from all over the world.

Chris Samsury, 28, of the Hurricane Research Division, said he was destined from childhood for a spot on the plane - whatever the risk.

Growing up on the Texas coast and in New Orleans, he was fascinated with the disruptive storms, he studied meteorology at Texas A and M and earned a master's degree in hurricane structure.

"At that point I was interested in being here, studying hurricanes," said Samsury, co-author with Black of the electrical experiments.

"Obviously flying into hurricanes is not the safest thing. But they're professional pilots and the plane is built for it," he said. "If you're not a little concerned, you're probably not human."



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15th Fajr International Film Festival

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

The 15th Fajr International Film Festival will be held in Tehran from February 10-20, 1997 by the Directorate of Film Festivals and International Associations (Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance) to commemorate the 18th anniversary of the triumph of Iran's Islamic Revolution.

The Festival aims at providing an opportunity for presentation of superior cinematic productions of the previous year and valuing exceptional works of art.

Festival programs will be presented in two main sections of the Iranian and International cinemas. The International programs of the festival comprise the following:

Festival of Festivals. A selection of outstanding works from the world cinema, presented at other festivals will be screened in this section.

Special Screenings. The following groups of films will be presented in this section:

A. Documentary or reconstructed films from various countries which represent new trends and styles.

B. Films which will be selected on the occasion of significant events in world cinema.

C. Short or feature films, including documentaries, which provide an understanding of a certain country or region's film art or general cultural and technical development. A panorama of cinematic productions in the Oceanic region has been envisaged for the 15th edition of the festival.

D. Films of exceptional artistic merit produced more than 10 years before the date of the Fajr Festival or those which have not been presented in any other festival.

Cinema and Literature. After the programs of Cinema and Literature in Russia, France, Japan, Germany, China, England and India, the program of Cinema and Literature in the 15th Fajr Int'l Film Festival will be devoted to cinematic versions of a single writer - William Shakespeare.

Archival Treasures. At the start of the second century of cinema, a collection of the most favorite comic films from the silent era of cinema will be screened in a program entitled "Birth of Cinema".

All correspondence, entry forms, film prints, etc. should be addressed to:

Fajr International Film Festival Farhang Cinema Dr. Shariati Ave. Gholhak, Tehran 19139 Iran Fax: 267082

Persian Miniature Exhibition in Istanbul

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

An exhibition of miniature paintings by the young Iranian artist Hakime Karami will open in Istanbul today.

Organized by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, with the collaboration of Ansbarin Farhangsara, the show had earlier been held in Ankara where it had met with enthusiastic public reception.

Provincial Museum Fights to Stay Open

KOSTROMA, RUSSIA (Reuter) - Viktor Ignatyev has had five heart attacks and fears he may not have long to live.

At a time of cuts in spending on Russian culture, he fears the same fate awaits the art museum which he has spent most of his life turning into a cultural gem in the provincial town of Kostroma, some 320 km (200 miles) northeast of Moscow.

Some of the top cultural sights in Moscow and St. Petersburg have won a reprieve under a recent government pledge to reduce the cuts. But distant places like Kostroma, a four-hour drive from Moscow, have missed out and are desperate.

"We have no money. We are fighting for our very survival," said Ignatyev, the museum's 58-year-old director.

Kostroma, a town of 300,000 on the banks of the Volga River, is part of Russia's golden ring, a chain of towns and cities containing many of the country's most famous churches and monasteries. Its famous Ipaty Monastery was founded in the 13th century, although the present building dates from the 1590s.

Ignatyev and his museum, which exhibits icons and paintings, are victims of the cash crisis which has hit much of Russian society and forced big cuts in the already small culture budget.

Even the spending promised to the arts under the budget has failed to materialize this year.

Some of the country's leading artists have protested against cuts which they say strangle the arts and threaten institutions such as the

Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg with closure.

The government has bowed to the pressure and promised cash to ensure the cultural flagships in Moscow and St. Petersburg stay in business. But out in the provinces, the pleas for help are like voices in the wilderness.

Ignatyev and the 70 other museum workers have not been paid since July. His wife Natasha, head of the city's library, has also not been paid for months and they scrape by on his 84-year-old mother-in-law's meager pension.

The museum's electricity, water, heating and telephone bills have not been paid for weeks. Neither have the guards, who watch the museum out of a sense of duty to old friends.

"From time to time the head of security calls and asks 'Where is the money?' Then I say 'We don't have any'. And then we joke, talk a bit and it's business as usual again," Ignatyev said.

The museum - two white turn-of-the-century buildings, one of which was a monument to the Romanov dynasty which ruled Russia for 300 years - has received only 600 million (\$111,000) of the 890 million roubles (\$161,000) promised this year.

Its marble-lined main hall needs a new lick of paint. Some of the old white curtains in the showrooms, meant to protect the valuable collection of icons, 18th century portraits and Russian avant garde works from sunlight, are falling apart.

"We can't even afford the rope to hang the paintings," Ignatyev said.

His greatest torment was watching the collection gradually fading away with no money to buy the spirit and cotton wool needed for restoration, let alone funds to buy new items.

"I feel like a doctor who has the will and the knowledge but not the means to save the life of a patient," he said.

His patient has been a difficult one since Ignatyev became the museum's director 33 years ago.

Defying the communist authorities, he used tricks and persuasion to build up the collection, parts of which have traveled to exhibitions in Western capitals.

In the 1960s, he dug out several icons from the ruins of devastated churches in the Kostroma region, including a 16th century painting of Archangel Michael.

He also saved the work of contemporary Russian artists who were outlawed at the time for refusing to paint in the style of "Socialist Realism" favored by the communist authorities.

"There was an order from the culture ministry in Moscow to destroy all these works," Ignatyev said. "So I burned some empty canvases and told the authorities: 'It's done.'"

He hid the paintings in a basement where they survived the communist era. They are now another jewel of the collection.

The museum depends fully on the regional budget of Kostroma, which is nearly as big as Austria but one of the poorer parts of Russia, with no money-making industry and high unemployment.

The museum staff said regional

See Page 13



KRAKOW, POLAND: Wislawa Szymborska, 1996 Nobel Prize winner in literature, smiles during her only public appearance late Nov. 18 in Krakow before going to Stockholm Dec. 10 to receive the award. The poet, who doesn't like publicity, refuses interviews and seldom gives autographs, but made a rare exception at a meeting in her native city of Krakow. (AFP Photo)

Clint Eastwood's Enduring Passion for Jazz

NEW YORK (AP) - The lanky screen legend strode onto the Carnegie Hall stage at the close of a concert in his honor, stared at the audience, and declared: "I'm Clint Eastwood and I love jazz."

And then, taking the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play Carnegie Hall, Eastwood sat down at the piano and played a credible down-and-dirty chorus of the blues "After Hours," before giving way to the pros.

For the jazz community the recent concert was a chance to pay back one of the jazz world's leading patrons.

"I really don't feel that I've done anything for jazz except to support something that I love," the 66-year-old Eastwood said offstage. "I've done movies with classical music and bluegrass, you

name it, but jazz is always the first love."

Audiences around the world know Eastwood for extending the boundaries of one original American art form - the Western. Less widely known is his devotion to that other original art form - jazz. Long before he first saddled a horse on screen, Eastwood dreamed of becoming a jazz musician.

As a teenager in Oakland, California, in the 1940s, Eastwood learned the piano by playing along to the Fats Waller records his mother brought home.

"But I wasn't very disciplined when I was younger ... and didn't work at it rigorously," said Eastwood, who can be heard playing a Rodgers and Hammerstein ballad in the piano bar in "In the Line of Fire."

After high school, Eastwood played semiprofessionally in Oakland bars, then got drafted into the army and afterward moved to Los Angeles, where he attended college and studied acting.

"I got sidetracked and became an actor, and it ruined my whole career," he said. But he never lost his enthusiasm for jazz.

When he got a chance to direct his first feature, "Play Misty for Me" (1971), he cast himself as a jazz disc jockey stalked by a deranged fan obsessed with pianist Erroll Garner's ballad "Misty."

Over the years, Eastwood has used jazz-oriented composers such as Lennie Niehaus on his soundtracks, spotlighting such jazz musicians as trumpeter Jon Faddis and saxophonist James Rivers. Eastwood himself has written the themes for "Unforgiven" and "The Bridges of Madison County," as executive

producer, he arranged financing for the acclaimed documentary "Straight, No Chaser" on the legendary pianist-composer Thelonious Monk.

One of the films closest to the director's heart is 1988's "Bird" about the self-destructive alto saxophonist Charlie Parker.

"On 'Bird,' all the time he was thinking what would go well here or there," said Niehaus, the musical director for 12 Eastwood

films.

"He's very easygoing and is very influenced by jazz," as a director, said Niehaus. "He lets everybody do their own thing. He's not going to say, 'I want it done this way or that way,' but instead, 'Let's see what you come up with.'"

The Carnegie Hall concert was recorded for release on Malpas Records, Eastwood's new custom jazz label distributed by Warner

Records. Malpas's first release, "The Bridges of Madison County" soundtrack, shot to the top of the jazz charts last year.

"Bridges" features a cameo by 27-year-old Kyle Eastwood, who plays bass with James Rivers' band during the nightclub scene.

"Both my father and my mother (Eastwood's first wife Maggie Johnson) took me to a lot of jazz shows," Kyle Eastwood said.



Clint Eastwood takes the opportunity to "shoot back" at photographers during a press conference in September in Rome where he was awarded a lifetime achievement award by Rome's Mayor Francesco Rutelli.

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IRAN

POLITICAL NEWS

Egypt Accuses U.S. of Imposing Its Will on United Nations

ATHENS (IRNA) - Egypt's top diplomat at the United Nations in New York Monday said there was a worldwide consensus on the nomination of United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali for a second five-year term.

"The African countries agree, the Europeans agree. The whole world agrees. The only exception is the United States," Egypt's permanent U.N. representative Nabil al-Arabi said in an interview with Egyptian radio Saut al-Arab today morning.

Washington has said it will veto Ghali's nomination for a second term, but it has not proposed any other candidate.

The Security Council will begin formal consultations Monday to pick a candidate for election by the 185-nation General Assembly.

Arabi said the U.S. has not given any clear reason for its objection to the candidacy of the 74-year-old Egyptian diplomat whose current term expires on December 31.

"The United States always speaks about democracy and the rule of the majority, but when it comes to the United Nations, it wants to dictate its conditions," he said.

If the U.S. uses its veto, he said, African countries will ask for a few days time for consultations to announce their position.



BOUTROS-GHALI

Last week, Egypt formally nominated Boutros-Ghali, the only candidate, for re-election, said the radio.

Asked if Boutros-Ghali's condemnation of the Israeli bombing of a U.N. shelter in Cana in southern Lebanon early this year influenced the American decision, Nabil al-Arabi said "It may be one of the several reasons."

Boutros-Ghali, a former Egyptian foreign minister, is a Christian of the Coptic Sect by faith.

Hun Sen Warns of Military Reaction Following Murder of Brother-in-Law

PHNOM PENH (AFP) - A gunman shot dead the brother-in-law of Cambodian second Prime Minister Hun Sen, a senior government official, outside a restaurant in central Phnom Penh yesterday, police and relatives said.

Colonel Kov Samuth, 39, deputy director of the Interior Ministry's Economics Branch, died of massive chest wounds shortly after arriving at Phnom Penh's Calmette Hospital, police said.

Hun Sen vowed a military response in a speech broadcast on national radio just hours after the killing of Kov Samuth, his wife's brother.

"It is time for me to prepare the forces to fight in the coming few hours or days if it is necessary to protect the people's lives," he said.

Kov Samuth was gunned down outside a popular restaurant by an unidentified assailant who escaped on a motorcycle with the help of at least one accomplice.

Hun Sen said he believed the murder was an attempt to intimidate members of an alleged underground Khmer Rouge terrorist cell operating in Phnom Penh from defecting.

"I wish to inform my beloved people...that if the underground group faces risks (in defecting), I will have an immediate reaction because a military reaction to provide safety for our people is my duty."

On Saturday, 111 men claiming to be members of the cell held a press conference at Hun Sen's house in which they claimed that the unrecognized opposition Khmer Nation Party (KNP) was a Khmer Rouge front and that members of the Royalist Funcinpec Party had conspired to cover up the link.

They further alleged that the Khmer Rouge had planned agents in different political parties as well as in senior positions in the police and military.

KNP officials and Funcinpec president, first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, have angrily denied the memo's allegations which were presented with no supporting evidence except for a six-page typed confession.

But in his speech, Hun Sen said he had direct proof of the allegations and warned "politicians and political parties" not to interfere with his work in convincing the rest of the underground group to defect.

He said three of the men had identity cards signed by Prince Ranariddh and rejected the prince's call for the 10 men to be brought in for intensive questioning by Funcinpec officials and the media saying, "The questions and answers will have to come later on."

"These guys have to be under control of Hun Sen, no one will be allowed to touch them," he said.

"After the work is done, everything will be done according to the law."

Kov Samuth's murder comes as tensions between Hun Sen's former Communist Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and Funcinpec, the two main partners in the current coalition government, are near an all-time high following the accusations.

Prince Ranariddh, who left Cambodia yesterday for a meeting of the World Economic Forum in Hong Kong before Hun Sen's speech, said Funcinpec would issue a condolence letter condemning the murder.

But he insisted that "if there is any tension, it does not come from the Funcinpec side."

"As you are very well aware, I could have reacted in a very violent manner to such an organized press conference and declaration

at Hun Sen's house, but I did not," the prince told reporters.

He added that he thought such unsupported allegations were "bad for the country."

In his speech, Hun Sen said that after the allegations were made he had ordered all "military units who are faithful to peace and (who) support my action" to be on alert for threats against the defectors but had neglected to protect his brother-in-law.

"That was my mistake," he said.

But he appealed for Khmer Rouge moles hidden around the country to come out and defect, promising that even the men who killed his brother-in-law would receive amnesty.

Kov Samuth, is survived by his wife, Lim Solha, and a 13-year-old daughter.

HK Party Splits Over China's Legislature Plan

HONG KONG (Reuters) - A pro-democracy party which plays a pivotal role in Hong Kong's Legislative Council split on Monday after it decided to join the controversial interim legislature which is set to replace the Council in mid-1997.

Sixteen members of the Association for Democracy and People's Livelihood (ADPL) resigned when party leaders decided to allow members to join the "provisional legislature" which Beijing has vowed to install when Britain hands the territory back to China at midnight on June 30 next year.

The three-week nomination period for the provisional body opened on Monday.

"They should pay the price for such a political decision," Wong Chun-Ki, a spokesman for the 16 rebels, told reporters.

Wong said the rebels would form a new political party and continue to fight China's plan to set up the interim body.

Party Chairman Frederick Fung glossed over the rift. "I can understand their decision, as we have a very different view on the issue," he told reporters.

The ADPL has four seats in the present 60-member Legislative Council. Its voting habits in the Assembly range from pro-democracy to pro-China and sometimes abstention on controversial issues, making it a pivotal group.

China, angered by democratic electoral reforms enacted in the twilight years of colonial rule, has vowed to scrap the elected legislature and appoint a provisional chamber.

The interim body will be chosen on December 21 by the 400-strong selection committee, the same China-backed body that will appoint Hong Kong's first post-1997 chief executive.

Hong Kong's Pro-Democracy Movement has criticized these moves as a way to snuff out democracy after the handover.

The Democratic Party, the territory's largest, has sworn to boycott the provisional legislature. It claims the selection process for members of the 60-seat body and the chief executive by the China-appointed electoral college is undemocratic.

But more than 56 pro-Beijing politicians and former legislators collected application forms for the contest on the first day of a three-week nomination period. Legislator Chim Pui-Chun was the first to return his form.

"Of course, competing in the provisional legislature is much more convenient (compared with the 1995 Legislative Council election)," Tang Siu-Tong, a former legislator, told reporters.

Tang lost out to a Democratic Party member in the 1995 legislative elections.

A dozen pro-democracy activists staged a protest outside the office of the China-appointed Preparatory Committee, which is overseeing Hong Kong's transition to Chinese sovereignty.

The activists urged Beijing not to scrap the provisional legislature and called for a direct election for the legislature immediately after the handover.

Malaysian PM Urges ASEAN to "Think Carefully" and Accept Burma

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA (AFP) - Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad yesterday urged ASEAN to "think very carefully" and accept Burma as a member, saying "arm-twisting" will not succeed in democratizing Rangoon.

In an interview with Singapore-based Asia Business News television, Mahathir said he believed in the "constructive engagement" policy adopted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Burma.

"We think that if you cut them

(Burma) from the rest of the world, they will not understand at all how a free market works, how democracy works," Mahathir said in the interview.

"The best way to democratize any country is to expose them to democratic processes so that they will not fear democratic processes," he added.

Arm-twisting tactics to pressure Burma to be democratic would not help, said Mahathir, who has been pushing for Burma to be accepted as a member by next

See Page 13

Last Muslim Enclave Survives the War But Not the Peace

GORAZDE, BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA (AFP) - Brutally besieged for nearly four years, this isolated and battered Muslim enclave survived to see the end of the war but its future in peacetime is not assured.

"Living conditions are getting better," said Munereva Imamovic, a French teacher at a local school. But, she quickly added, "There is no work. Gorazde remains an enclave. One cannot travel freely and the corridor is not reliable."

Munereva, 55, lived through the agony of the town, when it was bombarded and starved of food and materials by the Bosnian Serbs. But she doesn't like to remember this difficult time. "All that is past. We survived," she said dismissively.

Her husband, a former agricultural engineer, was more optimistic. After years of privation and fear, he savors the return of a semblance of normality.

"I regularly draw my pension, 84 German marks (about \$54), and with this I can live," he said. "During the war, one packet of cigarettes cost 100 marks on the black market, when you could find them," he remembers.

However, he despairs of one day recovering his orchard, now on the other side of the former front line in the hands of the what he calls the "Chetniks", the derogatory term used by Muslims for their former enemies, the Serbs.

Twenty kilometers (12.5 miles) from Gorazde in the nearby Serb town of Cagica, Mayor Dusko Korijaca said: "Relations with the Muslims are not very good."

"We live in relative peace, a son of cold war," he said. "The two communities will live together again, but not immediately."



A file photo from Gorazde

The wounds are too fresh," he said.

Gorazde is a pocket of 350 square kilometers (137 square miles) with a population of some 30,000 people. Living conditions for everyone are difficult. Few houses remain undamaged by the siege and the town is due to spend its fifth winter without running drinking water and isolated from the rest of the country.

Engineers from several contingents of NATO peacekeepers have worked to make a narrow dirt track linking Gorazde with Sarajevo navigable. Threading its way for 80 kilometers (50 miles) through the mountains, winter will soon render it impassable.

"The viability of Gorazde and its future depends on the track built for the corridor," asserts an official with the International

Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The alternative for Gorazde's inhabitants are roads that pass through areas controlled by the Bosnian Serbs. Old enmities have not been forgotten and cars from the enclave are frequently stopped or stoned as they pass through Serb-held towns.

The project promised under Dayton to provide a four-lane highway is prohibitively expensive, some \$200 million according to the ICRC.

"Militarily, the enclave is defensible. Economically, it is not viable," estimates a Western official. "The Europeans have already written off the enclave. It is not certain that Gorazde will remain a part of the (Muslim-Croat) federation," one of two entities that

share power in post-war Bosnia.

Yet, money pours into Gorazde. Nearly \$20 million have already been spent since the Dayton Peace Accords were signed a year ago. Aid officials say that apart from Sarajevo, it has received more money than any other district in Bosnia.

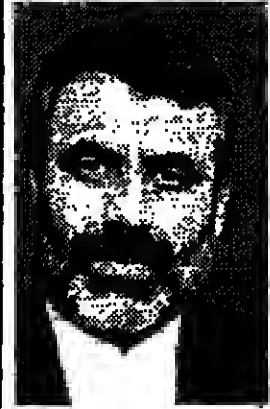
Notwithstanding this, the enclave is emptying. Despite a vibrant cafe life on the banks of the Drina River running through the town, young people have no other choice than to leave, say local Western officials.

Local authorities have imposed a daily 90 German mark minimum salary for those working for humanitarian agencies. But these jobs are limited. Only 2,800 jobs exist at present.

HAI ALI MOGHANIAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF REZA LOCK (UNION) CO:

UNION Iran's Labor Law, the Most Improved in the World

For a while, Reza Lock Co. refused to pay its employees' salaries due to some mismanagements. The company



Reza Lock housing cooperative, registered in 1980, has built residential units in three phases, 26 units are being built in Minoo Complex, 37 units already delivered to the employees.

also suffered a critical situation along with heavy debts to the Power, Water, and Telecommunications departments as well as the Social Security Organization. Haj Muhammad Ali Moghanian, the new managing director of the company has taken part in an interview to clarify the above issues and the status quo of this company.

Q: Please tell us about the background of the company.

A: Reza Lock Co. was registered in Iran in 1971 by a partnership of a group of Iranians and the members of England's Union Co. It started its activities in manufacturing various kinds of wooden and iron locks and installation of a factory in Alborz industrial town. Finally in 1973 it officially started manufacturing locks. After the glorious victory of the Islamic Revolution, the company went through some changes. As for all other domestic companies, Reza Lock Co. sought independence from the English ownership and continued to work under the name of Reza Lock Co., thanks to the mighty hands of its skilled, hard-working, and pious workers and, now, the company keeps working at its fullest capacity at the moment.

Q: What range of products does your company manufacture?

A: Presently we are producing different types of locks suitable for wooden and iron doors and also distribute them in the market. Reza Lock Co. products stand in a high level of quality not only in our country but also in the Middle East.

Q: How long have you been the managing director of this company? What made you accept this responsibility considering the heavy debts of Reza Lock Co. to different organizations as well as its own employees?

A: I accepted this position after the demands of board of directors and the shareholders of Reza Lock Co. late October. Since then, I decided to concentrate all my efforts in recommissioning a huge factory that has 25 years of experience in manufacturing all kinds of locks, in line with economic independence and development, and elimination of the recess that occurred in the production during recent months. Also since a big number of workers are employed by this company, I felt responsible to accept this crucial position. Now, in the construction era of the country, we should roll up our sleeves and reactivate our country with the efforts of obliged Iranian experts. Unfortunately Reza Lock

Co. had faced a total stagnancy due to mismanagement and lack of the necessary liquidities. Those who were aware of the company's situ-

heartedly as I felt responsible. I hope I can lift up the factory to an ideal level of production with the assistance of our hardworking employees and under the guidance of the Almighty God and the distinguished officials and experts of the Islamic Republic of Iran. With God's blessings the factory has resumed its normal trend of production by injection of a considerable amount of liquidity since I accepted this job. Our debts to different organizations and real and legal entities have been paid and with a daily production of 1500 locks, we can supply the market with a total of 35000 locks a month. Such a quantity of production is unprecedented in the last 25 years and yet the factory is running in a single working shift. In the near future we will provide job opportunities for hundred employees in three working shifts. In this regard we will need the supports of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, specially Mr. Ahmadi manager of the Job Opportunities Support Fund. I

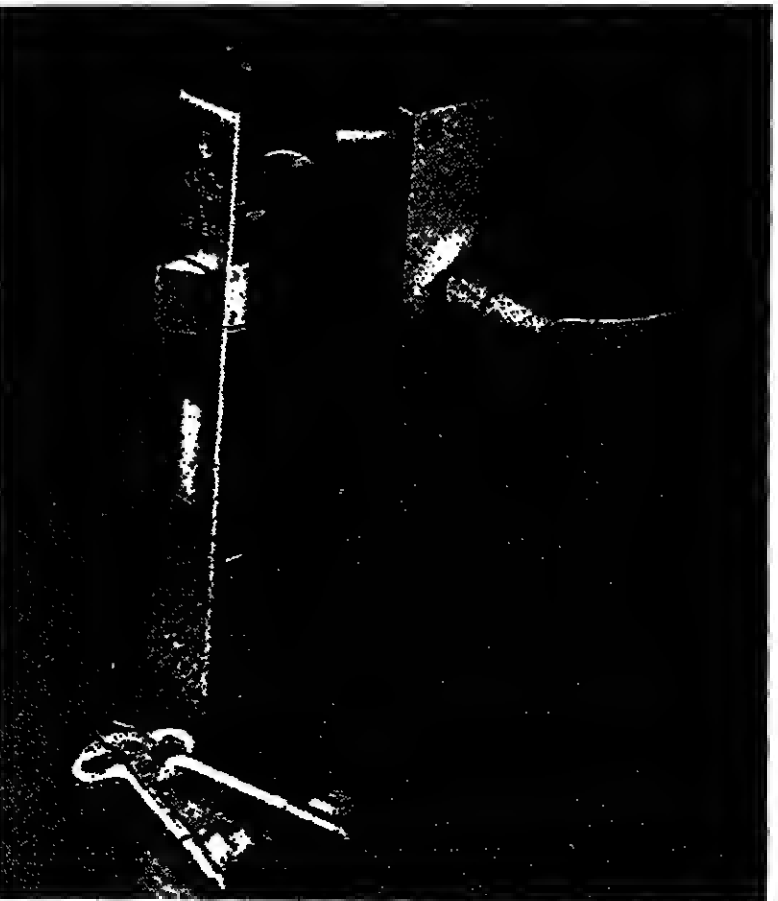
At the moment we are manufacturing locks and door handle sets for wooden and iron doors and our products stand in a high level of quality not only inside the country but also in the Middle East.

cal Services, and the Social Security Organization among others, no one would have thought that it could make a new start. Worst of all the company was in a 2,000,000,000 rials debt to real and legal entities. On the other side, the esteemed workers of the factory with little to do around, were having serious concerns about the situation. So accepting such a responsibility in a place like this, could be regarded as a suicide. But I looked at the matter from a different view and took the job whole-

should also mention that with the efforts of its different experts, Reza Lock Co. has also improved the quality of its products.

Q: How will you distribute the products in the market?

A: Our products used to be distributed in the market by the sales department of the main office. Such a practice is disagreeable from the economic point of view. With the recent changes we have decided to supply the market through our active agents to be present throughout the country.



All organizations, government offices, housing cooperatives and factories could purchase our products with a special discount by referring directly to our company in Alborz Industrial Town.

In line with achieving the economic independence and self-sufficiency and solving the problems of company, I decided to put all my strength into decommissioning a huge factory that has 25 years of experience in manufacturing various kinds of locks and door handle sets.



With a daily production of 1500 locks, our company manufactures and distributes more than 35000 locks a month, an unprecedented volume of production in the 25 years of the company's background.

Such a step could create better relations between Reza Lock Co. and its customers who can purchase our products at a fair price by referring to our agents. Also, all the housing cooperatives, government offices, organizations and factories could purchase our products with a special discount by referring directly to our factory in Alborz Industrial Town. I need to mention that unfortunately a company has recently started to distribute its own products under the name of Yun Lock Co., which resembles that of ours, with a very low quality. I hope our dear customers carefully notice our trademark while purchasing.

Q: Considering that you have been the representative of Bijaar in the fourth Majlis and also a member of the Labor Commission, what effects could an economic independence have on the future of our country?

A: Achieving an economic independence and self-sufficiency has been one of the main objectives of the glorious Islamic Revolution.

As the factory managers we are responsible to materialize the wish of our pious people. We should try our best to promote both the quality and the quantity of our products. We must take steps toward exporting our products relying on a greater volume of production.

Recently in a meeting with the traders of our neighboring countries we signed three different contracts with Ukrainians to export our products. Considering our good speed of production we hope to sell our products in the international market as our products enjoy a competitive quality.

Q: What facilities and services have you provided for your workers? Do you have active gatherings for Labor, Islamic Labor Society, Labor Basij, housing and consumer cooperatives?

A: As you know I have been a Majlis representative and also a member of the Commission for Labor and Social Affairs and have skills in issues involving labor. Therefore, I will try my best to provide the employees with differ-

ent kinds of facilities namely in the fields of hygiene, safety, housing, ... We want our employees to come to work with good morale free from anxieties. A successful manager is one who cares for the labor. At the moment we are building 26 residential units in Minoo Complex. We have agreed to provide all the iron needed, we will also provide a considerable amount of construction materials for our housing cooperative so we can solve the problem of housing for our employees. Regarding the assemblies and councils I must state that the Islamic Republic Labor Law which is the most improved in the world, has attached a high value on Islamic councils as legal representatives of factory workers. Islamic councils also are a great help to the factory managers. Managers and owners of industries can benefit from councils that act as employee representatives to increase the production in factories. Labor societies such as Basij and Islamic councils have always helped workers solve their problems.

Haj Muhammad Ali Moghanian, managing director of Reza Lock Co. has visited the residential units of the company 500 hectares from Minoo Complex, accompanied by the chairman of board of directors, and the director and members of Reza Lock housing cooperative. In this visit Hussein Sharifi a director of Reza Lock Co. and the chairman of board of directors from Reza Lock housing cooperative, expressed his satisfaction that with the efforts of Mr. Moghanian and the allocation of credits, building of the units has been resumed. He said, "Reza Lock housing cooperative was registered in 1980 and is now building residential units in three phases. We have been able to build 37 residential units in Alborz Industrial Town and Muhammadieh Town, and deliver them to the employees. At the moment 26 more units are being built in Minoo Complex. We hope we can finish these units with the supports of our managing director and bank loans, and deliver them to our employees so everyone at Reza Lock Co. owns a home of his own."

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